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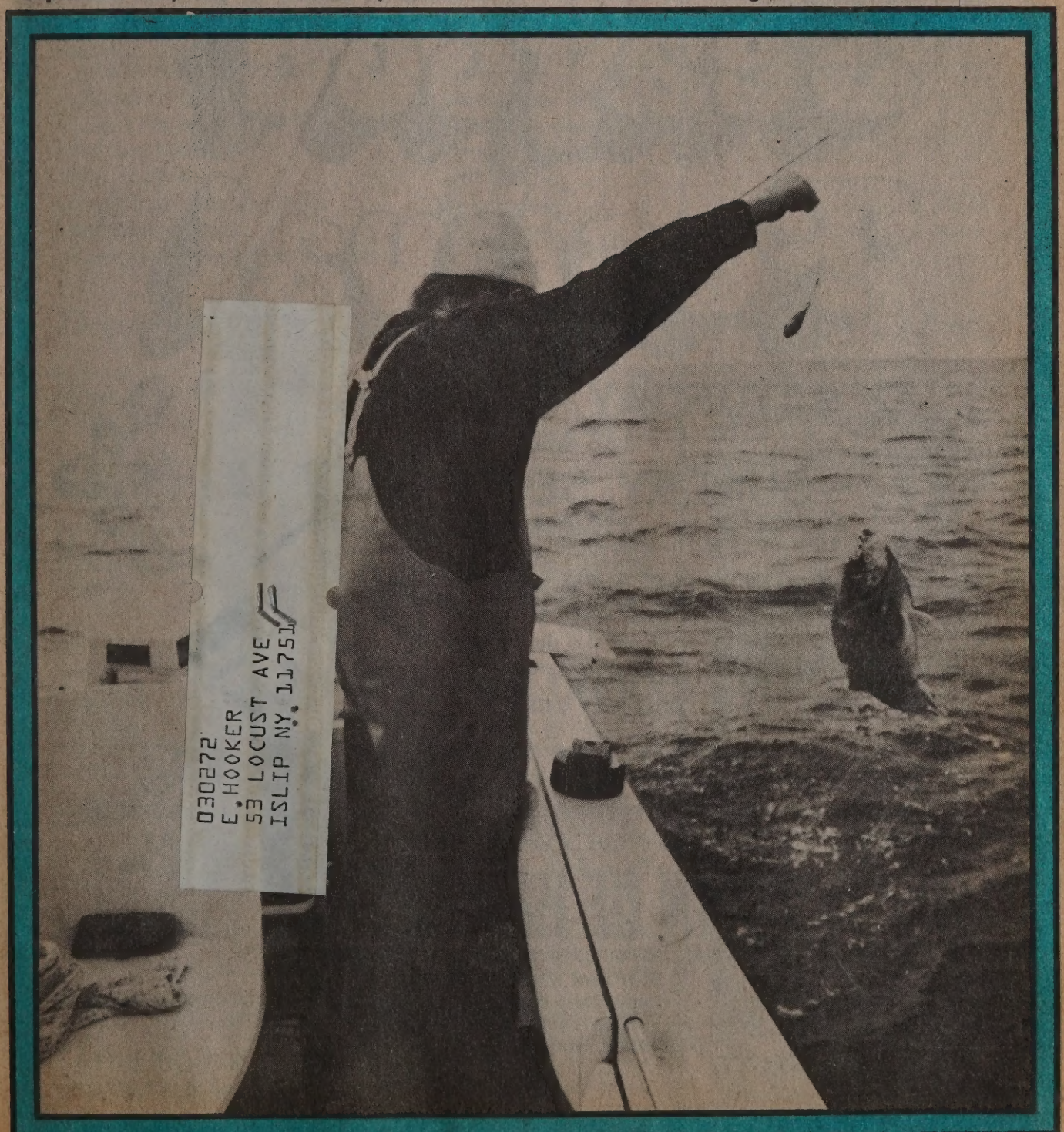
September 16th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 37 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 37 **September 16th, 1982**

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About the Cover:

As Long Island waters continue to cool, blackfish will become a key target for many sinker bouncers. For some tips on taking these hard fighting brawlers, see the article on page 6. Cover photo by Tim Coleman.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **AHERN ON FALL FLOUNDER**

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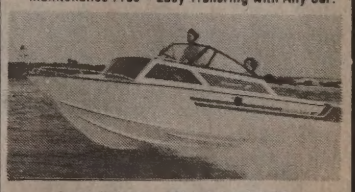

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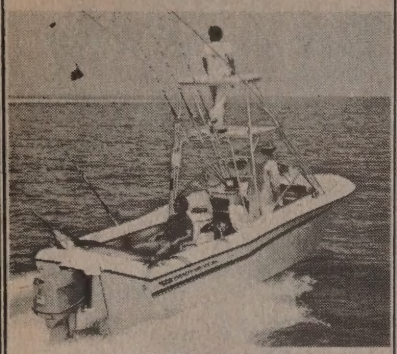

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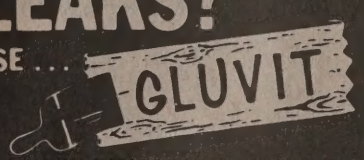

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Pass It On...

SMALL BOAT COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Since boating safety is always in season, the Brooklyn Power Squadron will conduct registration for a course in small boat handling on Thursday, September 16 at 7PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, just a half block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women, over the age of 16 are invited to attend the 12-week course. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at St. Francis on Thursdays at 7:30 PM, starting on September 23. The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of inboard and outboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting courses, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. And the new rules of the road for safe operation also are taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes to teach sail and power boaters the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by 768-4714.

BILL WOULD UNLOCK BIAGGI FUNDS

A new bill, H.R. 6813, which would transfer Biaggi Act funds from a grants authority to a contract spending authority, was passed out of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee August 3 and now faces a floor vote. Authored by Mario Biaggi (D-NY), the legislation is designed to free use of funds allocated by the Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Development Act of 1980. Funds of $20 million annually would pass to the states for maintaining their boating programs.

Utilization of Biaggi funds have been consistently thwarted because Congress has refused to support moves to appropriate them. By switching to a contract operating authority the appropriations roadblock would be circumvented. Then, the Secretary of Transportation, responsible for maintaining boating safety and facility development through the Coast Guard and state boating agencies could act independently to spend funds already collected.

This latest maneuver by Biaggi has the support of key colleagues on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. It is one of the several proposals before Congress that would provide direct benefits to America's boatmen and fishermen.

GREAT SOUTH BAY BASIC BOATING COUR

The Great South Bay Power Squadron will conduct a Fall Basic Boating Class for the general public. The classes will be in the Sayville High School, Brook Avenue, September 20, at 8PM. Registration will be on September 13-20 from 8PM to 9:30PM, in the Sayville High School.

This course is a must for the new boat owner; and a great refresher for the old salt. More information may be obtained by calling Lt. Thomas J. Barone at (516) 665-2999 from 6-8PM.

FLOTILLA 12-4 BASIC BOATING COURSE

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-4 will conduct a 13-lesson Basic Seamanship Course on boat handling, navigation, marine engines and related subjects starting on Sept. 29, 1982, 8 PM at the Martin Van Buren High School, Hillside Ave. and 231st St., Queens Village. You may register by calling after 6 PM, either Kal Sekely, 212-429-3552, or Scott Riddle, 212-229-7281; or you may register in class on the 29th.

DEER CONTEST AT EDELMAN'S

The Second Annual Deer Contest being held by Edelman's Sporting Goods is off to a flying start. This contest features no entry fee and money prizes for 1st ($3500), 2nd ($1500) and 3rd ($1000) prizes. Fourth prize is a deer head mount, deer fully butchered and tanned free; fifth prize is free deer head mount. The next 10 winners receive free deer butchering and the last 10 winners get free hide tanning with hair off. You can pick up your entry certificate and sign up at Edelman's, 75 Sherwood Ave., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735; (516) 249-8080. All deer must be brought into official weighmaster and taxidermist, Fish Unlimited Taxidermy, 207 Rt. 109, W. Babylon, NY; (516) 422-1130. $7500 in prizes and 25 winners in all!

FREE BLACKFISH RIGS AT SALT WATER ANGLERS EDUCATIONAL MEETING

George Horton, an eminent authority on catching blackfish and a hard-working member of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, will talk on how to use the right rigs, select the best tackle, and follow productive techniques on catching blackfish.

The public (and bring the kids) is invited to this educational meeting on Sept. 28, which will start with a movie at 8PM at the American Legion Hall at 33 West Passaic St., Rochelle Park, New Jersey. A free blackfish rig will be presented to those who participate in a raffle for valuable fishing tackle. Free refreshments, hot dogs, beer and soda will be served at the

conclusion of the meeting.

Anyone having questions on this meeting or desiring further information on the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County can call John Toth at (201) 569-3218 or Al Lorenzo (201) 796-6572.

NEW NAVIGATION RULES AVAILABLE

Boaters may purchase copies of the new inland navigation rules which took effect December, 1981. The Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980 updates and consolidates the old rules which previously governed navigation on the inland waterways of the United States. Orders should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. When ordering, give the name of the Act, Public Law Number 96-591 and the number S/N 022-003-92759-0 on a card attached to the check for payment. The cost is $2.25 per copy.

SHIMANO'S 1983 FISHING TACKLE CATALOG

1983 will again see new rod and reel performance standards issued for the tackle industry—courtesy of Shimano, the world renowned leader in precision gear engineering and production. "Tomorrow's tackle...today" is much more than just another company slogan. At Shimano, it reflects the company's attitude toward a continuing tradition of providing today's fisherman with the most advanced fishing equipment available in the industry. Their reputation is well established in the angling world: the revolutionary Quick Fire bail trigger, for one-handed bail opening, has changed spin fishing forever; Super Gears, appropriately named, have added a whole new big fish, light tackle dimension to the world of baitcasting reels: high energy Graphite Karate Sticks and ultra-sensitive Boron rods are just other examples of Shimano's ingenuity.

1983...will see the introduction of future trend setters:

Shimano makes the magnetic reel—Bantam Mags—virtually backlash free casting with the most refined magnetic spool control system on the market today.

The Bantam Mag Plus—the most advanced baitcasting reel in the world. Features are so extensive, so impressive, a special two-page layout is set aside in Shimano's 1983 Catalog for their debut.

Custom X Quick Fire—spinning reels: the Quick Fire bail triggers combine with new graphite composite spools, rear calibrated drags, a free spare spool, and a long list of other performance features to provide fishermen with a spinning reel series that will lead the way into the 1990s.

These new products, coupled with Shimano's pioneers of the past including, MLX Quick Fire spinning reels, Triton offshore reels, ultra-sensitive Bantam Boron Rods, and more are featured with detailed descriptions, color photographs, and complete specifications in their 24-page, 1983 Fishing Tackle Catalog.

Shimano...where "Tomorrow's tackle...today!" is not just a slogan but a description of company character established through years of successfully introducing the most advanced technology and materials available into the tackle industry.

For more information write to: Shimano American Corp., 205 Jefferson Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054.

NEW SPECIALTY BOX IS CONVENIENT WAY TO CARRY BAIT JARS

A new compact specialty box that provides a convenient and safe wy to

A new compact specialty box that provides a convenient and safe way to transport pork rind and salmon egg jars has been introduced by Woodstream Corporation, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

The Fenwick "Ham and Eggs" is a compact, moisture-tight bait container with protective molded compartments for up to six jars. Pork rind and salmon egg jars can easily break when left loose rattling around a boat or tackle box.

Fishermen's tackle boxes are also often overflowing with tackle and tools, so the Fenwick Ham and Eggs box can help keep the main box organized.

The new molded yellow plastic Fenwick Ham and Eggs container with its eye-catching cartoon logo is just one in an extensive line of plastic and metal Old Pal® and Fenwick® boxes for the beginner to the dedicated fisherman.

The Fenwick Ham and Eggs box was introduced at the AFTMA Convention, held this year in Las Vegas, August 5-7.

For more information, contact Woodstream Corporation, Lititz, PA 17543.

NEW ST. CROIX GRAPHITE RODS QUALIFY FOR "IMPERIAL" RATING

St. Croix of Park Falls, Ltd., has announced a new line of 100% graphite fishing rods which are of the quality to qualify for the firm's highly-respected "imperial" label.

Described as "the rod you always wanted—at a price you never expected," the new Imperial Graphite 4300 Series rods are American-made in northern Wisconsin.

The selection of nine one-piece rods features a unique and distinctive translucent smoky grey onyx finish, highlighted by black and gold-tone windings. The line includes spincasting, spinning, fly, bait casting, musky, and fresh and saltwater casting/trolling rods. All with the fine component parts that fishermen have asked for. Finest quality metal fittings, reel seats and rod butts are used throughout the line.

If not yet available locally, fishermen should write to St. Croix of Park Falls, Ltd., Park Falls, WI 54552.

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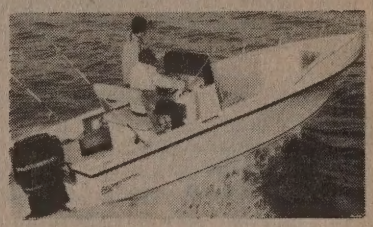

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FALL BLACKFISH

by Pete Cable

They start moving inshore in late September, arrive in force in October and remain usually until at least Thanksgiving. The fall migration of blackfish is a late season boon to shore-bound and small boat fishermen. Sure, the cod are running and the blues are still out in force, but I, for one, like to squirrel away a good number of thick blackfish fillets to augment my winter's seafood stocks.

This being the case I find autumn blackfishing not only to be fine sport, but economically productive as well. One doesn't need to venture far from shore during this period to guarantee a good catch and this fact makes fishing for blackfish very attractive when one is tired of blues or doesn't have either the time or the cash for a day's codfishing.

Tautog in the latter part of the year are very cooperative in that they begin to frequent inshore areas such as harbors, reefs, bays, docks and rocks once the hickory leaves begin to fall. That's the sign I go by; just as in the spring when I gauge my blackfishing by the descent of the petals from the apple trees, in the autumn I wait for the tawny yellow leaves of the shag bark hickory to begin to carpet the ground. When this happens, I adjust my freezer's storage space to accommodate a surge of fresh meat, check the weather, tide charts, and gear up for blackfish.

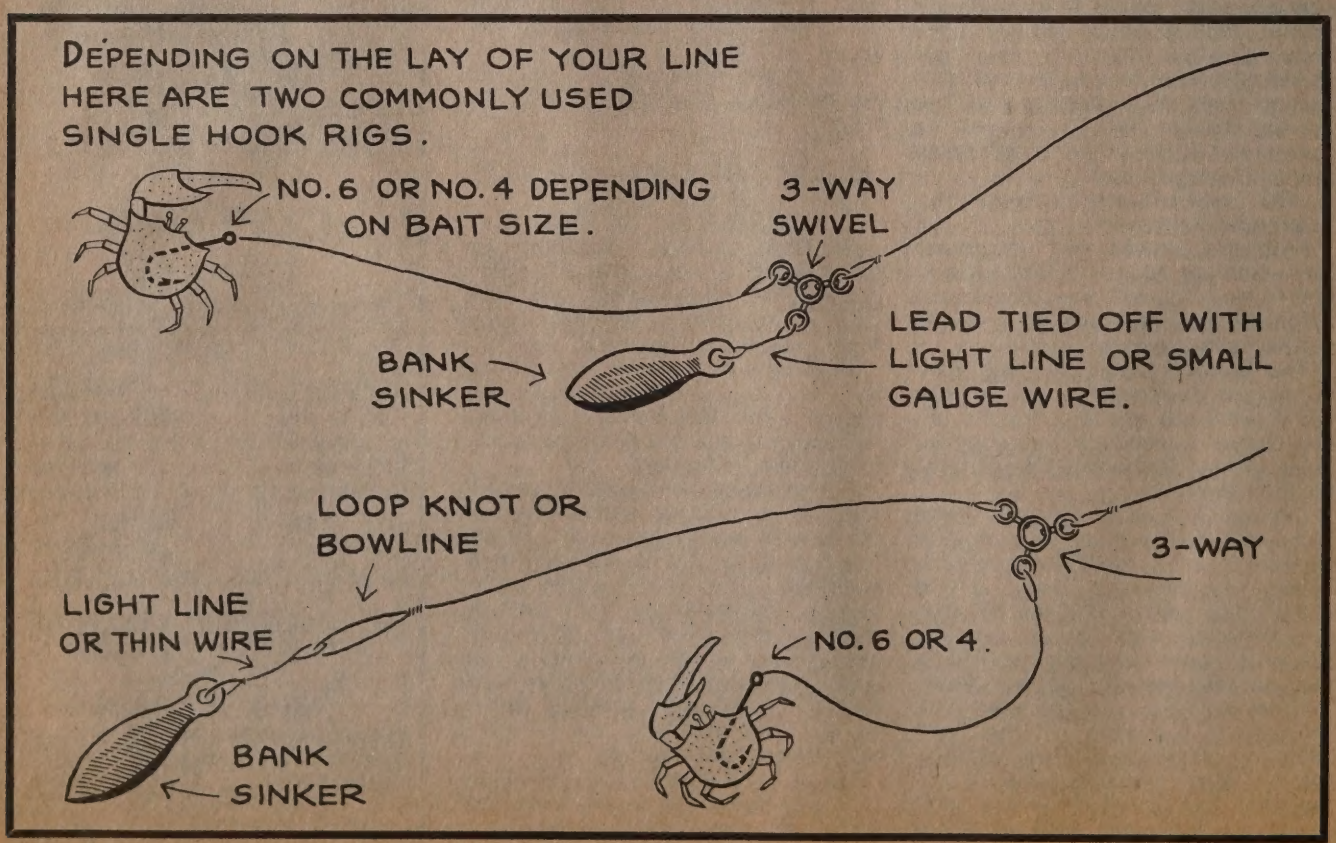
There are a number of things I've learned over the years I've been fishing for tautog and in hopes of making your fishing a little more productive and enjoyable I'm sharing my lessons learned with you.

First—if you are ever in need of an anchor, don't go out and buy one. Just rent some scuba gear and check out the bottom of any well known blackfishing spot. Blackfish have an affinity for irregular bottoms. They love rocks and wrecks, crevices in reefs and the like—all good places in which to foul and lose an anchor. I, along with many others, have accomplished this feat on numerous occasions, hence good blackfishing areas contain a large selection of anchors wedged, fouled, and tangled about them. They also contain an ever-increasing collection of cement blocks which experienced blackfisherman now use in lieu of the more expensive bottom holding devices. A cement block or two, depending on your boat size and a few fathoms of clothesline is the best way to go when mooring for blacks.

At least I've found it so. A fouled cement block can be cut free and left a lot less painfully than a good anchor. Why take the chance of fouling? Well, another thing I've learned is that it's very easy to miss good fishing by as little as a few yards. Lack of a wreck, staying too far to one side of a reef, or fishing around, but not in, a rocky area and the amount of fish taken decreases proportionately to the distance involved.

Along with this, hooks, line, and sinkers need to be considered. Take plenty with you for you'll be a sad puppy if the blacks start hitting hard and you find you have fouled out all your gear. Blackfish do not calmly surrender to their fates and allow themselves to be placidly hauled to the surface. They struggle and fight every inch of the way and in a good fishing area this will mean an occasional hooked fish fouled and lost in addition to rigs lost due to the normal bottom fouling. As far as bottom fouling goes one way to reduce the number of high low rigs left to the sea is to tie off the sinker with light line or a few turns of fine gauge wire. Then, if only the lead is fouled, a forceful tug can carry the hooks clear of it to be re-weighted and fished again.

In the area of rigging the hooks, there are basically two methods


DEPENDING ON THE LAY OF YOUR LINE HERE ARE TWO COMMONLY USED SINGLE HOOK RIGS.
NO. 6 OR NO. 4 DEPENDING ON BAIT SIZE.
3-WAY SWIVEL
BANK SINKER
LEAD TIED OFF WITH LIGHT LINE OR SMALL GAUGE WIRE.
LOOP KNOT OR BOWLINE
3-WAY
LIGHT LINE OR THIN WIRE
NO. 6 OR 4.
BANK SINKER

agreed upon by most blackfishermen. The double hook rig—either that which is sold commercially or one similarly constructed and the single hook device.

The two hook rig, which many agree works better if the leaders are shortened a few inches from their purchased length, is a straight down fished rig. Used primarily from a boat or fished from a shore point such as a dock, pier, breakwater, or rocky headland, it is designed to best present the bait when used vertically.

With enough lead on it to hold the bottom during conditions present, the double hooked rig should be run down until the lead sounds and then fished with a strain just heavy enough to allow the sinker to hold the line fast.

The single hook rig is normally used from shore areas where a cast is required or at times from a boat in such instances as the fishing of mussel beds or the working or the perimeters of areas one is anchored over. In fishing the single hook sinker combination, the best approach seems to be cast, let the bait settle, and then fish it with enough strain to keep the line taut, but the lead undisturbed. If no strikes are felt with the passage of five minutes or so, then a few feet of line is taken in and the procedure repeated. Quite often a strike will occur immediately following the rig being moved, so be especially alert at this time to any rap on the line.

There are two variations to the single hook rig commonly used along the coast. One being the hook made on the line behind the lead and the other with the hook above. Whichever is used it is a good idea to tie the lead on with light line or fine gauge wire as it's obvious that in this mode of fishing a large number of fouls will occur.

What goes on the hooks comes next. Blackfish will take worms and clams along with crabs, but with the bait stealers, the cunners or bergalls or whatever you call them, can wreak havoc with you at times not only with soft bait, but even with halved crabs whose insides are accessible. I prefer to use small green and large hermit crabs one each on a double hook rig. If the greens are not too large they should be impaled whole on the hook. This presents a more attractive bait to the fish and being somewhat undamaged, does not quickly wash out or fall victim to milling cunners.

The hermits I hook carefully, for I don't remove the large claw. Just behind it is where I start the hook and work the tip just clear of the crab's upper shell. Hooked in this manner, the bait can still wiggle, attracting fish with the movements of legs and claw. The small hermits minus the one large claw are the females of the species. When I get to using them once all the males have been spent, I pair two to a hook and still enjoy some degree of success.

The size of the bait determines, for the most part, the size of the hook I use. A #4 Virginia with the average green and extra large hermit; a #6 for the smaller bait. Now, some may argue that I'm under hooking for blackfish, but I've lost extremely few fish due to hook problems and a good number of the tautog I take can be classified as "bulldogs." What I don't do is let my blackfishing hooks become antiques. I purchase my hooks in quantity and tie on my own leaders. Once a hook becomes the slightest bit dull or even after a good day's service, it enters the realm of nevermore, being replaced with a brand new item.

And now...the topic of chum. I use it when I fish for flounder and I use it when I fish for tautog. Most fishermen will not argue the beneficial effect chum has in flounder fishing, but a surprisingly large number of fishermen never consider the possibility of chum being effective in blackfishing. From my experience, it is. I use mussels just slightly cracked, either in a mesh bag or chum pot or thrown singularly up-current to drift into the fishing area and I've always had more success with chum than without.

Whatever you choose to do, I'd suggest you sharpen up a few knives, make some room in your freezer and schedule a few tautog trips this fall for autumn blackfishing is blackfishing at its very best.

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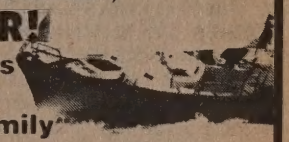

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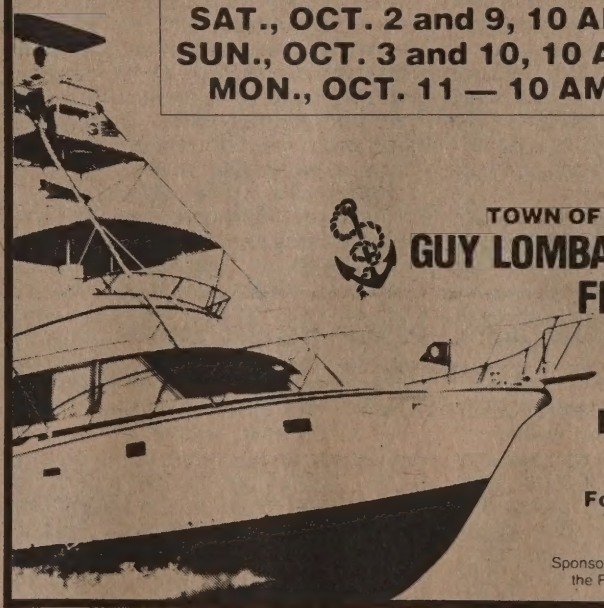

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WESTERN L.I. SOUND:

A CRAZY SEASON SO FAR

by Ted Keatley

It has been a crazy, mixed-up season. If anyone had told me a few months ago that there would be big schools of mackerel off Stamford's Cummings Beach in August, I would have laughed at them. However, the mackerel did not head north and east toward cooler water by June in their usual pattern this year.

Another thing which I noted is that spawning success was excellent this spring. There are young of the year mackerel all over the place.

Bluefishing got off to an early start with big schools of all sizes from Captains Island westward to the New York City line in June. A little later, there were plentiful blues from Smithtown Bay and Bridgeport eastward. However, the Eatons Neck triangle, Lloyds Neck and my home base of Stamford were shortchanged and had little action.

Stamford normally does not have consistently good bluefishing in the early part of the season, but 11B, 13 and the obstruction buoy off Eatons as well as buoy 15 at Lloyds always were considered June and July hotspots—until this year.

Weakfish didn't find the area too enticing either. There were good concentrations for several weeks in mid-July off Cockenoe at the eastern end of the Norwalk Islands and directly across the Sound along the inshore areas of Smithtown Bay. West of these points, the action was very spotty, primarily a matter of a few strays rather than sustained fishing.

Even the porgies proved a disappointment in Western Long Island Sound. There were some monster humpbacks mixed in with the smaller fish, but the results were spotty. I cannot help but wonder about the impact of the draggers which worked the porgies day after day, primarily in Smithtown Bay. I have noted complaints from further east of the boats working three abreast to really sweep the bottom clean.

The availability of bunkers was one thing which interested me. This was not only because they draw alligator blues and big bass, but also to see the impact of shutting down the Seacoast Products menhaden plant at Port Monmouth, N.J. There would be no bunker boats prowling Long Island Sound this summer.

Even though there were no commercial boats, the availability of bunkers seemd to be about normal. Of course, one of the reasons given by Seacoast for shutting down their operation was that pressures on young of the year fish in North Carolina had adversely affected the whole Atlantic Coast population. Perhaps the local numbers were average only because the commercial seiners were not removing a percentage of the available fish.

I also have wondered about the state of the fishery in the Gulf of Maine. For the past few years, water temperatures slightly above normal drew large bodies of menhaden north to this area. Past history has shown that the fish will travel to Maine for a period of 5 to 20 years and then disappear for a similar length of time. Perhaps the long, cool spring discouraged travel north of Cape Cod and reversed the pattern of recent years. Last season, Seacoast did very well in Massachusetts Bay and beyond although the travel time to and from the New Jersey plant with the resultant high fuel costs made the trips only marginally profitable.

All that I have written so far was leading up to the main point of this article. September is the month to take monster blues in the harbors of Western Long Island Sound. This is the season when the alligators corner the bunker close to shore and hang around the outer fringes until they feel an urge to run further up in the harbor and kick the poor herring around.

The area of Stamford's Cummings Beach usually has large schools of bunker from late July until the beginning of October. When they first arrive, they remain some distance offshore and normally are seen flipping on the surface only at dawn and dusk. They will show at first light for a short period and if you are snatching a dozen bunker for livelining, you will find yourself gradually following the fish out to deeper water where they suddenly disappear.

As August progresses, the fish move further up into the protected cove behind the beach. This is a sure sign that big blues have come into the area and prompted the bunker to decide that deeper water "is injurious to your health."

My boat is on the innermost float at Halloween Yacht Club and only 50' from the head of the cove. Many September mornings, I can snag my bunker before I even untie the boat from the dock.

Since livelining has been dealt with at considerable length by other writers, I will avoid being redundant. However, there are two cautions so critical in this type of fishing that I will repeat them again.

- Do not try to set the hook too quickly. Allow the fish to take the bait and run. You are more likely to lose the fish by striking too soon than waiting too long.
- When the fish is struck, do not drop the rod tip before beginning the retrieve. That moment of slack often is enough to allow the blue to throw the hook. Begin reeling with the rod above your head if that is necessary to prevent slack line.

Although I feel that live bunkers are the best way of attracting the attention of big blues and bass, the majority dismiss live bait as too much of a hassle and use chunks instead.

In mid-July, I drove down to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to visit kith and kin and kissin' cousins. While there, I went out on a Chesapeake Bay bluefishing charter with four cousins (none of the kissin' gender).

The method of the day was fishing bunker chunks from an anchored boat.

I had brought my own tackle including wire snelled 7/0 Sproat hooks which the captain pronounced inadequate. He later allowed that they were all right if you were a skilled fisherman.

One cousin does a great deal of freshwater fishing, but the other three were of the one-trip-a-year variety.

All used boat tackle which was a heavy rod of about 6', a big spinning reel with the drag set fairly tight and 50# test mono. Hooks were 9/0 long shank Pacific Bass 3X strong. Probably a sensible choice on the captain's part since he has to foot the bill for tackle damaged by the usual neophyte

Trophy blues will again be riding herd on bunker schools in western Sound harbors.

passenger. However, it was not my idea of the outfit to use.

With the boat tackle, the blue came up hard against the end of the line as soon as the bait was picked up. This produced a lot of vicious strikes which did not result in hook-ups.

I used a Penn 501 conventional reel which I fished in free spool with a thumb on the spool and my forefinger against the line. This meant that I could feel the fish the moment that it touched the bait. I would allow the blue to take the bunker chunk and move off 30' to 40' against minimal thumb pressure on the spool. Then, I would simultaneously thumb the spool hard, bring the rod tip up to set the hook and throw the free spool lever. With this method, virtually every hit resulted in a hooked fish.

We quit early because of a bad thunder squall and still had 34 fish in the 11-12 lb. range. Most important of all, my rod accounted for almost half of the total catch in spite of the fact that there was no mate aboard and I helped the captain when there were two hooked fish at the same time.

I am more convinced than ever that spinning tackle should be restricted to casting lures and snagging bunkers when bluefishing. There is no way that the line can be controlled properly when chunk baiting or live-lining.

When holding the rod, I always fish in free spool with a thumb on the spool. If I must put the rod down, I leave the gears engaged, back off the drag and set the click.

Another thing to remember is that the vibration of the click does not bother a bluefish at all. However, if you cause slack when picking up the rod, the momentary change in tension may spook the fish into spitting the bait. This is a particularly important point with bass, but failure to keep a constant tension can lose a lot of blues as well.

For those who insist upon using spinning tackle, there is a gadget called Strike Guard which can be clipped to the rod. It has a spring loaded ball to hold the line and functions much like a big game outrigger clip. When the fish hits, the line snaps free with an audible pop. The device permits chunking with an open bail and prevents the problem of fish coming up against a tight line on the pick-up.

Finally, I do not like to use a rod holder if I must do something requiring the use of both hands. Fighting the butt out of the holder with an angry blue jumping up and down at the other end of the line creates too many problems. I put the rod butt on deck with the tip propped against the gunwale. Just make certain that you either put the reel in free spool or back off the drag before you do this. Carelessness can cause an expensive surprise as you watch your outfit go sailing over the side when a blue hits.

PUGILISTIC PORGIES

by Gerald Hahn

I used to think that porgies behaved like prizefighters contending in three divisions. The lightweight fish are called sand porgies and top the scales at 1/2 lb. In the middleweight class are the bay porgies, from 3/4 to 1 lb. And the heavyweights, or humpbacks, begin at 1½ lbs. and occasionally break the scale at 4 lbs. As with pugilists, porgies generally squabble and mingle only with members of their own division. The sand porgies are contenders in the Golden Glove division of various harbors and river mouths. The bay porgies corner the arenas in the somewhat deeper waters of the East End bays and the shallower regions of Long Island Sound. And the humpbacks occupy the big league stadiums of offshore wrecks and the deep water sectors of the Sound.

Although I've occasionally caught some bullying bay porgies among the sands, and even a stray humpback or two, most of the fish are in the same size range. Porgies are schooling fish, and individual classes are defined by fish of the same age.

These patterns have changed in recent years, however; but before proceeding with an explanation, permit me to describe the general requirements of a porgy battler who takes a ring-side seat in a small skiff.

Such a fisherman catches humpback porgies twice a year. The first bout is scheduled around late-May or early June. (Like prizefighters, porgies often cancel their fights). The spring encounter is brief, however, merely a prelude to the championship fights in the fall, and consequently, these large sea porgies leave the Peconics soon after arriving. Around mid-August the bruisers return, only this time to deep water in Long Island Sound, and for two months or so, they fight like mad, until their instincts tell them to head back to the Continental Shelf for winter training. On the other hand, sand porgies and bay porgies are ready to do battle throughout the summer.

Anglers going for sand or bay porgies use light tackle, but anglers who battle humpbacks use heavier gear. Light tackle is defined by a 6' or 7' spinning rod with a sensitive tip, a small matching reel and 8 to 10 lb. test. Heavy tackle consists of a 7' or an 8' rod with a stiffer tip, a medium spinning or light surf reel and 15 to 20 lb. test. Some heavyweight battlers prefer conventional tackle.

Oddly enough, rigs are basically the same for all size porgies, a typical rig consisting of two #1 Claw hooks with sliced shanks, snelled on 12" leaders of 30 lb. test. The hooks are tied in tandem—one snell to the middle of the other, and are connected to a dropper loop on the main line, about an inch or two above an end loop for the sinker. Sinker weights also come in different classes and vary from a 1 oz. bank for the lightweights to 5 oz. for heavyweights. Some fishermen simplify this bottom rig, by tying a snap swivel to the main line with an improved clinch knot and connecting the sinker, as well as the hooks to it. These are generalizations, of course. For instance, when fishing for sand porgies, I alter my rigs by custom fitting to their small mouths, freshwater hooks in #2 to #4 sizes. For humpbacks, however, I prefer a different rig, in fact a hi-lo rig, because the heavyweights often battle at a higher level and favor the top hook. In this arrangement, the two hooks are tied above each other, on two dropper loops. The bottom dropper is tied, as before, and the top one is tied slightly more than a snell's length above the first.

Lightweight and middleweight porgies like worms: sandworms, bloodworms, and even earthworms. So do heavyweight porgies, but their diet seems more varied, and consequently, they are attracted to a slice of clam or a wedge of squid, as well. I've even caught humpbacks on hermit crabs, an expensive bait aimed for bigger battles with bulldog blackfish.

Worms aimed for small and medium sized porgies should be cut into one inch pieces and carefully impaled on the hooks, so that only a small amount dangles below the point; for these quick-nipping featherweights are as cunning as a cunner. Humpbacks, however, prefer an adult-sized meal, half a worm, with a generous amount trailing below. Similarly, clam or squid slices should be ample, but twisted and impaled on the hook several times. Apparently, humpback porgies have not forgotten their humble beginnings; schooled well in basic training, they are still adept at stealing bait.

As with other species, including prizefighters and fish, lightweight amateurs are more numerous than heavyweight pros. Consequently, when abundant sand porgies are my target, I don't even bother to chum. When it comes to the middleweights, I go half-n-half, that is, some days I chum and fish for them at anchor, and other days I drift. But when fishing for humpbacks in deep water, chumming is as essential as the gong that announces the first round. It brings the fish out of its corner, raring to go.

The best action with humpbacks occurs around the turn of the tide, especially in the early hours. The chum pot, filled with cracked mussels or clams, is lowered to the bottom in the 40' to 60' depths, while more chum is batted over the side.

When fishing for middleweights and lightweights, I generally prefer to drift. Although I catch fewer fish this

way, the porgies hit harder, and fewer are lost. Moreover, when drifting for small porgies, there is always a chance to hook larger fish—blues, weaks, or fluke.

The last few seasons, none of the normal methods have worked on humpbacks. One day at Oldfield Point near Port Jefferson Inlet, where most of my fishing for heavyweights takes place, I headed for my deep water spot, about 1/3 of a mile north of the bell buoy and anchored up. I chummed for them until the pot ran dry. Wondering where the fish were, I even drifted for them to no avail, and after two hours, all I had to show for my efforts was a bergall and a sea robin. Disgusted, I finally gave up on catching humpbacks and decided to head inshore. In fact, I was so disgusted that I didn't even switch to a tandem rig for the small contenders.

Since the tide was going out, I started drifting about 400' from shore. Instantly, I hooked several lightweight porgies and a middleweight as well. Then, moving a little closer to shore, I felt a light tap on the line, and while accidentally pausing to light a cigarette (it always happens at such a moment), I suddenly felt a powerful jolt. When I reeled in the line, I discovered a sand porgy on the bottom and a 2 lb. humpback on top. Had the heavyweights decided to have an inshore convention with the lightweights I wondered? Or was it an accident, a stray bruiser among the featherweights? By now the tide was in full force, directing my boat to Bridgeport instead of Orient Point, and, therefore, I moved still closer to shore; in fact, so close I could see the bait on a surfcaster's rig. From here, I followed the same pattern I had inadvertently discovered: a light tap, a brief pause, and a hard smash. It was like chumming with small porgies to catch large porgies. After awhile, that's just what I did, by releasing the sands and keeping the humpbacks.

Apparently, the heavyweight fish had decided to mix it up with the lightweights, after all. Perhaps the unusually cool weather that summer had played a role. Here they found the competition keen; their junior relatives were more adept at finding small prey, and consequently, were quicker to find my bait, as well. Seeing the commotion, however, the humpbacks—always spoiling for a fight—soon bulldozed their way to the other hook.

Had I been using a typical tandem rig, I doubt there would have been room enough to catch two porgies of vastly different weights. The hi-lo rig, however, created an ample arena for all contenders. Furthermore, had I given up in frustration instead of trying for small fish, I would never have found the large ones.

When normal fishing methods do not work, when favorite haunts are devoid of life, try breaking a few of your cardinal rules. Sometimes, heavyweights contend in lightweight stadiums.

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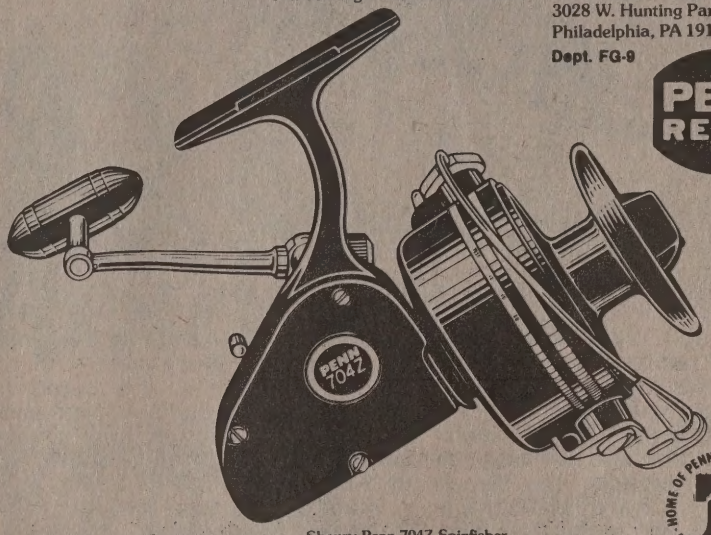

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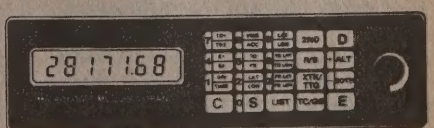

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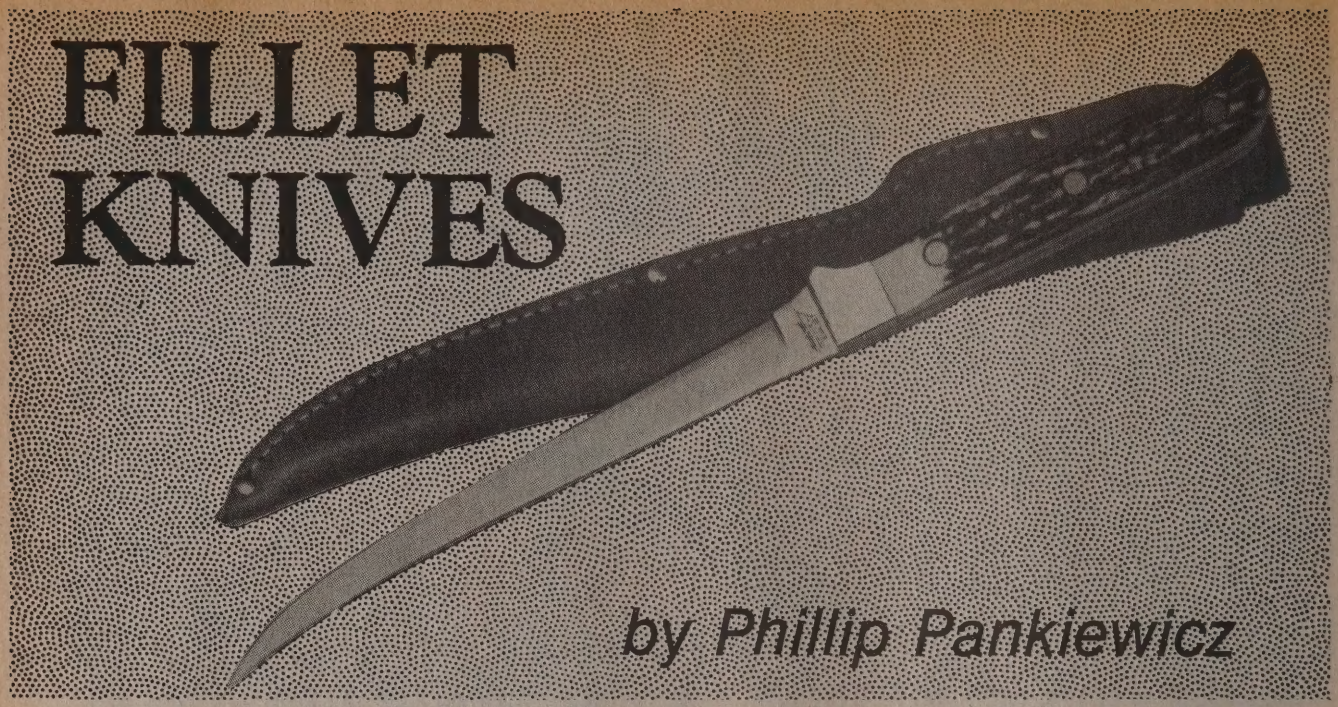

by Phillip Pankiewicz

Beyond the rod, reel, and usual assortment of terminal tackle, a good fillet knife rates high on the list of important angler needs. For when the catch is finally netted, gaffed, tailed, or subdued, the arduous task of preparing the catch for the dinner table is at hand. It is at this time that a dull, awkward, or ineffective fillet knife can become more nuisance than help and when a sharp, easy to handle knife can help immensely in the entire cleaning process.

It pays the angler, therefore, to do a little research into the various types of fillet knives available so that filleting can become more pleasurable than a dull chore.

How does one go about selecting a good fillet knife? One could, of course, rely on recommendations from fellow anglers. Sometimes this works out and sometimes it doesn't! Perhaps a better suggestion is to buy from a reputable company. A number of U.S. companies, for example, have a long tradition of providing quality knives to the fisherman.

Western Cutlery makes a fine fillet knife with an especially handsome leather sheath. **Gerber Legendary Blades** offer several models depending on the type of fish you're seeking. Their fish knives feature molded on aluminum handles that have a baked-on finish and which are almost impossible to loosen. **Camillus**, an older concern from upstate New York, recently introduced its fillet knife called the Swordfish. It has nice sleek lines and comes with a heavy duty leather sheath that is heavily stitched and riveted for extra strength. **Queen Cutlery**, from Pennsylvania, currently offers two different fishermen's knives. One is called the Pan Fish Knife with a four-inch blade and the other is simply called the Fillet Knife and sports a 6½" blade. Another famous cutlery concern, **Case**, also has its version of what it considers to be a practical, no-nonsense fillet knife for fishermen everywhere. All of these fillet knives are listed in catalogs that are available from each of these companies and whose addresses are listed at the conclusion of this article.

Many other good quality fillet knives are imported. **Normark**, makers of Rapala plugs, makes three different lines of fillet knives: the Presentation Fillet Knife, the Rapala Fish'n Fillet Series, and the new Falcon Fillet. All are nicely made and reasonably priced. **Jet-Aer Corporation**, carried a G-96 Mariner Fillet Knife, a Mariner Magnum Fillet, and a Folding Fisherman. All of these are likewise good investments. Both of these companies' knives are carried by the "Salt Water Tackle Box" out of Falmouth, Mass.

Morty the Knife Man, however, is probably the largest supplier of quality imported fillet knives anywhere. His catalog, which sells for $2, abounds with a large number of fillet knives from companies all over the world. In his catalog one will find such brand names as **Frosts, Henckels,** and **Marks** along with clear photographs and prices for each knife.

What are some options to consider in a fillet knife? One must decide whether or not he wants a stainless steel or an ordinary tool steel. Then there are narrow or full tang knives. The narrow tang is completely surrounded by the handle material while the full tang knife handle is sandwiched between two wooden slabs. The full tang is stronger, but saltwater can work its way between the metal handle and the wooden slabs. For those doing most of their filleting onboard a boat an important consideration would be a lanyard hole. This would allow the user to attach a leather thong through the hole and around the wrist so that if the knife slipped it would not disappear into the deep.

The sheath, too, is another item to ponder. One has the option of either a leather or plastic sheath, with each having its advantages and disadvantages. And finally, there is the all important criterion of cost.

Perhaps the best strategy for the fisherman is to visit a number of shops that carry fillet knives, send for, and read, a lot of knife catalogs, talk to other fishermen and then make their own decision.

A good fillet knife is a good investment!

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CAST THE FIRST STONE

by Matt Ahern

One morning last week I drifted for fluke in Shinnecock Bay. The weather was beautiful; unusually so. But you know what happens on such beautiful days—the fishing was only fair. I caught three keepers and the expected three-to-one ratio of throwbacks.

As I returned to the fishing station, I noticed three fishermen just leaving their rental skiff. Upon inquiry, I was told they hadn't even caught so much as one throwback. Well, I said, that's the way it goes sometimes. But when I sneaked a peek at their terminal tackle, the reason for that poor fishing was readily apparent. No self-respecting fluke would ever go near such poorly thought-out rigs. Had they gone porgy fishing, they'd have had it made.

But that's all right, for who among us is perfect? In as nice a way as possible, I showed them where they had made their serious rigging mistakes. I then gave each fisherman one of my homemade fluke rigs, explained how to use them, wished them both luck next time out, and walked to my car. As I was stowing the gear, a young fellow I'd seen loitering in the background came up to me, a huge grin on his face. "Did you see those jerks?" he asked. "'Tryin' to catch fluke rigged like that! I've been fishing two whole years now," he bragged, "and I always catch fluke. Never miss. But I'll be damned if I'd go out of my way to set them straight. Just two jerks!"

In seconds my blood boiled, for to me no fisherman is ever a "jerk." And this is what I told this character—in no uncertain terms. "Look, old-timer," he replied, "don't race your motor. You wanna make yourself sick? You do your thing, and I'll do mine." And he walked away.

Is this attitude typical of today's young fishermen? No—I wouldn't say so. Not at all typical. But occasionally we do have the bad luck to meet such fishermen (and I use the term lightly). I guess these fellows have been around since cave men caught fish with their hairy arms.

I ought to know about such fellows, for one time as a young fisherman I was what one could call a reasonable facsimile. Perhaps not as feisty as that particular specimen, but obnoxious in my own way. I was unaware of this, of course, and only the good Lord knows how long I would have continued along this path had I not been shown the error of my ways by a fellow fisherman who really cared. Matt Smith was his name. I've written about Matt several times in these stories and articles, for this kindly, soft-spoken gentleman was my mentor and tutor for many years as I wended my way along the road to better fishing.

I was twelve in 1926 when I first met Matt and we hit it off immediately. For many years we went fishing at every opportunity and I knew he was always amused at my interpretations of the fishing game. When I erred, he set me straight. And because of this, I owe him a debt I can never repay. He set a fine example for any eager, young fisherman.

At the time Matt was a hard-working Brooklyn plumber, husband and father. But no matter how exhausted from his daily labors, he seemed always happy to have me visit him each evening after supper and discuss fishing trips, past, present, and intended. Oh! the plans and assaults we made on those fish! Our friendship continued for many years and to this day the recollection of those evenings remain one of the brightest of all the bright spots in my fishing life.

Each evening I would walk the three blocks to Matt's house and find him seated in his favorite easy-chair. I was assigned a favorite chair, too, which Matt's twin daughters teasingly referred to as "Matt's Chair." ("We keep it polished just for you, Matt.")

Matt and I would sit across from each other and discuss the pros and cons of fishing as we knew it, at times getting into fishing mysteries neither of us could solve. It was most enjoyable and no matter how trouble-

As the twig is bent.

some the discussion might become, Matt never exceeded the bounds of propriety.

Until one evening.

I no longer recall what we were discussing, but something mentioned caused me to think back and I began to laugh.

"What's funny?" Matt asked. "Something I said?"

"No. Just something funny I saw happen the other day." And I laughed again.

"Tell me about it," Matt said. "I can use a laugh."

"Well...you remember I told you about that party boat fluke trip I made last week. The good fishing, and all." And its thought caused me to laugh again. "Well, there's this guy, see; one of the passengers...a real pilgrim; hardly knew on which end of the hook to put his bait. I made sure to keep as far away from him as I could because he was sure messing things up for everyone around.

"Anyway, along about two o'clock or so, this guy yells out "help! Help! Help me!' One of the fellers nearby yells out: 'Get the gaff! The guy's got a big fluke!' I take a look and this pilgrim has a real big fluke on top of the water. The mate yells back for him to hold the fish in the water, he'll be right there. All the time this guy is going 'Oo-o-o! O-o-o-o!' But he can't wait and he tries to lift the fish over the rail. Well...that was the end of that. Goodbye fluke! Some dope." And I began to laugh again.

But there was no return laughter from Matt. I could see the muscles of his face working as he sought to control himself. "You thought that was funny, eh? It made you laugh, did it? It amused you that some poor guy lost a big fish because he didn't know what to do? Is that what it was? Matt, I'm ashamed of you!"

I didn't know what to say; certainly things hadn't gone as I had hoped. "Well..." I began, but Matt cut me short.

"I think you better go home—now! But before you leave, let me ask something. Do you remember four years or so ago when you were about thirteen and you wanted to learn how to cast, and how I took you to Canarsie Beach and let you use my surfcasting gear? Remember your difficulty, the bird's-nest backlashes, how mad you got when what you thought was so easy wasn't easy at all? You had tears in your eyes that day, Matt. Did I laugh at you? Did I poke fun at you? Did I?"

"Well...no."

"All right. Go home now. Think about what I said. And remember this: you're no better than anyone else, therefore you have no right to cast the first stone. The door's always open to you, Matt, but first, I think you better mend your ways."

To say I was chastened is to put it mildly. I was devastated. It took me all of three weeks to work up enough courage to resume my evening vists. And in all the years that followed after that memorable evening, the subject, as if by mutual consent, was never mentioned again. I was thankful for that morsel of comfort, for I didn't know if I could have taken it again. I knew only that I had proved a disappointment to Matt Smith, whom I regarded as a second father.

But I did learn to mend my ways. It took some doing, for some habits are indeed difficult to break.

Since then, I've met several fishermen with similar attitudes toward their fellow fishermen. And the surprising thing is that they are always young. Advanced fishermen, especially old-timers, have long since given up their know-it-all attitudes (if they ever had them to begin with).

Usually, though, if someone does not get to these youngsters in time, they eventually decide to drop out of the fishing game and brighten a corner somewhere else. This is, of course, our loss, for oddly enough, these young fellows are generally pretty good fishermen. And it is this intelligent skill which causes the trouble, for it often leads to a monumental ego, which to my way of thinking, makes these youngsters their own worst enemy. (I ought to know.)

It is quite possible there are one or two young fellows out there with that oversized ego who are reading these words, young fellows who need a "talking" to. Actually, I hope there are none, but in case there are, let me say a few words. Certainly they can believe it is coming loud and clear from the Voice of Experience.

First of all, fellers, remember no man knows all there is to know about fish. (On those slow days, I sometimes think man knows absolutely nothing about fish!). I've put in a good 60 years proving that to myself. So, should you become misguided and assume you know "everything" about fishing, you're only kidding yourself.

Right about now, I can almost hear you saying: "Look who's talking about ego! You certainly have one." How true. Actually, the only human I know who hasn't an ego is in his grave. But whether you keep that ego in check, or allow it to run hog-wild is up to you. Don't misunderstand me, please. A little ego is good for all of us, it's what keeps you and me from becoming dull clods. But let it run to excess and you'll quickly find that to everyone around us, we are nothing more than obnoxious, opinionated jackasses. No one is going to listen, anyway. But if you keep a low profile, everything will think you're positively brilliant. Then when you spout about fishing, you'll at least get that attention you desire so much. (Just kidding in those last two sentences.)

Just remember what Matt Smith told me: "...you have no right to cast the first stone." Excellent advice, for none of us is without blemish. Understood? Good.

If the above applies to you (and I hope not), I have but one thing more to say: Go and sin no more.

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TREK AT DAWN

by John Fritz

South shore surfmen find stripers ripe for plugging during the much heralded "mullet run."

Plug casting, once the sole method used by a majority of surf fishermen along the south shore of the central Long Island coast, has declined drastically over the past several seasons. The legions of shore bound anglers chasing schools of breaking fish from the mouth of Fire Island Inlet to the Nassau County line has been replaced by sedentary surfmen patiently waiting for a passing bass or blue to seize their chunk of bunker. While it is true that there is not much incentive to spend endless hours casting plugs into a surf seriously depleted of its stock of gamefish, fishermen disdaining the use of bait have shown that artificials continue to take a share of decent fish from the general Gilgo surf. The key to this fishing is timing, for the best chance of success coincides with the departure of the mullet from Great South Bay.

The initial stages of the migration can take place anytime from roughly the 8th to the 22nd of September, being set in motion by a severe Nor'easter followed by a sharp drop in temperature. During the ensuing ebb tides pods of mullet will flow out of the inlets, hugging the shoreline in an effort to escape detection by gamefish anxious to build up an excess of fat to combat the lean months ahead. The instinct which causes the mullet to swim close to the wash provides the surfcaster an ideal opportunity to take advantage of a natural phenomenon which often draws heretofore scattered gamefish within casting distance of the water's edge.

When sea conditions allow, these schools of mullet can be seen a short distance off the beach as they make their way westward. Look for dark, circular, tightly packed patches of bait which ripple the surface of the water. When the bait sprays out of the water you can be assured that the school is being harassed. Unfortunately, on days when it is a simple matter to spot these pods of bait, the surf is usually calm and clear, ordinarily not a good time for catching gamefish. Generally after a northeast blow there is a residual surf for a day or so which will produce the turmoil necessary to fool the gamefish. Assuming that the water is not completely roiled, the water clarity will not be crystal clear; a time when it is difficult to trick a wary bass into making a strike. A moderate southerly wind, just enough to produce a chop but not so forceful where it will hinder the cast, is ideal. If I had to pick a favorite wind for this shore it would be from a south-easterly direction, but when other factors fall into place, the wind direction, unless it creates adverse conditions, will have little effect on the outcome.

One unfortunate consequence of a strong northerly blow is that it will churn the waters of the interior bay, freeing vast amounts of vegetation which eventually finds its way out of the inlet and along the outer beaches. At times this can be a serious obstacle, but the further one travels west from the inlet the more concentrations of weed will decrease. Escaping this bothersome vegetation should not be of prime concern for the greater the distance from the inlet the more scattered the schools of bait will become.

Prior knowledge of the mullet run is difficult to predict. If a person waits to read about it in the papers it is already too late to make the most of the opportunity. As previously stated, the key is dependent on a weather change which will sharply lower the water temperature in the bays. The ensuing ebb tides will offer the best possibility to be at the right place at the right time, but even if a person has the free time to monitor succeeding tides it is virtually impossible to cover them completely. Probably the best location to observe the mullet's initial movement toward the sea can be had from the Sore Thumb. The regulars fishing this barrier, to all that passes to the sea, are soon aware of the changing patterns of the local sea life and quickly alter their techniques to take advantage of every opportunity. Close contact with this corps of hard-working anglers will be an aid in keeping a finger on the pulse of the inlet waters. Another source of up-to-date information about the immediate beaches can be obtained from Hays at the Oak Beach Store, a fisherman of boat and surf who is keenly interested in all matters relating to the local fishing scene.

Even though it is time for all gamefish to begin increased feeding for their journey south, it is too early in the fall season for daylight fishing under a bright sun to be very productive. There are exceptions, of course, but if the coming day promises plenty of sunshine it would be better to lose a few hours sleep and be on the beach before the sun nudges the eastern horizon. The half light conditions, an hour before sunup, is a prime time for intercepting those bass which have strayed inshore, before the bright sun chases them back to deeper water. If sunrise coincides with an ebb tide in full flow, conditions are ideal for working the maze of sandbars which form and reform each year in front of Cedar Beach. When the sun's first rays shine on a shore which is experiencing a flood tide better possibilities might be found working the shore toward Gilgo. A prior knowledge of the existing sandbars, cuts and sluiceways will cut down on much wasted effort and allow the angler to concentrate on the more likely areas.

Locations showing white water or a crosschop caused by the waves rushing unequally over shallow areas, are logical places to cast a lure. In the opposite vein is a section of calm water within a line of white water which shows a break in the barrier bar. Previously noted holes, cuts, and troughs are natural areas for gamefish to lurk as the receding tide lowers the water level of the surrounding shallows.

This beach is a seemingly barren stretch of sand when first seen on a calm day at high water, but those who fish this area regularly know which particular locations are worthy of attention and which are a waste of time. The major bar locations are situated in a stretch beginning at a point a few hundred yards west of the Thumb, extending to a point just west of Cedar Beach and the area to the front of where the old Coast Guard Station once stood. This does not imply that these are the only areas which produce fish for lesser known but often just as productive are the locations at the Pines and opposite the Gilgo underpass.

Beach buggies are permitted in this area, which is governed by two separate agencies. Cedar and Gilgo west of the buggy entrance at the old Coast Guard Station are under the jurisdiction of the Town of Babylon and one must be a town resident to qualify for a buggy permit. The shore between these two points is a State park requiring the State Beach Vehicle Permit for passage. Those anglers who must travel by foot have two parking areas from which to choose, both controlled by Babylon town but both open to all at the end of

Popping plugs and dawn make a good combination during the "mullet run."

the summer season. While the Gilgo lot is never locked, the parking field at Cedar has been periodically closed at night in an effort to prevent vandalism, or so the powers that be have said. Either one of these two parking fields will provide access to prime areas of the waterfront. Those desiring to fish much further west have access from the Tobay parking lot or Field #6 at Jones Beach at their disposal.

Those anglers who are forced to walk should travel as light as possible. Although there is a chill in the air in the early mornings, the September sun will soon send the temperatures to a comfortable level. It is wise to dress in as little as possible for the exertion of walking and casting will produce sufficient body heat to dispel the chill. Rod, reel and belt with stringer and gaff plus, of course, waders will almost complete the outfit. A top is necessary only if rain is likely or there is an exceptional surf running at the time.

Yes, I know it would be wise to take along some lures, but I was holding that for a more lengthy coverage. The choice of lures at this time is generally of the larger sizes, which immediately eliminates many of the items which are used on those summer night outings. A variety of tins and poppers with maybe a darter or bottle plug is considered by many as a functional array of lures for a trip such as this. Before the compartments of the plug bag are filled with other items, make sure to include at least two blue poppers; one can be a standard blue and white popper such as the Atom Striper Swiper, but the other should be a Blue Gibbs Polaris. Blue is a dynamite color when mullet are prevalent along the shore, so if a choice in colors must be made with any plug, make it blue. After adding a Gibbs darter and a 2 ounce Gibbs bottle plug, make sure to leave room for a tantalizing Pencil Popper. The rest of the bag I'll let you fill with your favorite lures, but do not forget a variety of metal lures, especially a 3¼ ounce Hopkins, a 2¼ ounce Shorty Hopkins, a 3 ounce Kastmaster and a few of your preferred Diamond Feather Lures such as the 3 ounce FT or 8X.

The use of a wire leader should be dispensed with, at least at the start. Better to carry a few clipped to the plug bag on the chance that you come across a school of toothsome bluefish.

The opportunity to catch striped bass becomes more fleeting with each passing season and more and more time must be spent on the beach for conquest. Certain natural occurrences throughout the season increase the odds in favor of the surfman seeking striped bass. The two week period in mid-September provides just such an opportunity, so make the most of it now—the last rush of the season is at hand.

LOVE THOSE SPEED DEMONS

by Terry Maltese

Bonito and albacore can raise the pulse of any angler when taken on appropriate tackle.

"Albacore!" went my scream as I watched line peel off my reel at an incredible speed. I knew this wasn't another bluefish. No bluefish could run at a speed like that. Ten minutes and two long runs later that albacore felt the sting of the gaff. As he flopped around on the deck all I could do was admire the strength of this beautiful fish. I'm not upset when I lose one of these little speed demons, because he certainly earned his freedom.

The first showing of bonito and albacore usually takes place in early August. These first fish are usually taken on jigs meant for bluefish. Within a few weeks after their first appearance, and continuing through September, these speed demons become a prime target of party, private and charter boat anglers. Most of the fishing is done in areas such as 17 Fathoms, The Farms and The Sleuth.

Before I go any farther, I would like to clarify something: These fish are false albacore. Don't confuse them with true albacore (longfin). True albacore are larger and have a very long pectoral fin. They are found further offshore, in areas such as the Texas Tower and Hudson Canyon.

It is important to have at least two outfits with you. The rods and reels can be similar; the main difference is the line. You'll want a rod armed with 30 or 40 lb. test for bluefish. You'll need this outfit because you may not always locate bonita and albacore. Next, you'll want an outfit with 20 lb. test. Thin diameter line with a low visibility is needed because bonito and albacore are very line shy. Another important factor is to have a reel with a smooth drag. My bluefish outfit is a 7' medium action boat rod and a Penn Jigmaster loaded with 30 lb. test Ande. My albie outit is a 6½' medium action boat rod and a Daiwa 50H loaded with 20 lb. test Ande.

In my opinion, the best bait for bones and albies is a large fresh spearing. A-27's and Vi-ke lures in the 2-4 oz. range also work well. It's a good idea to remove the treble hook from the Vi-ke and attach a strong tuna hook. The lure is cast or dropped into the water, allowed to settle on the bottom, and then retrieved very fast. A high speed reel is imperative for this type of fishing.

Rigging up to bait fish for bonita and albacore is very simple. A small, bronzed, short shank tuna hook is tied directly to your line. The spearing is then hooked once through the eyes. No leaders, floats, sinkers, etc. are used. If the water is a little rough or if you are fishing in a strong current a small split shot may be attached above the hook.

Once you have arrived at the fishing grounds, lower your bait into the chum slick (usually ground bunker or mackerel). Keeping your reel in free spool, pull line from the reel, allowing the bait to drift away from the boat. If you feel the bait has drifted too far away from the boat (a couple of hundred feet is about max) without a strike, you can reel in and repeat the process. When the fish hits (very often you get to see this), engage the reel and set the hook. As soon as he feels the hook, he'll take off on his first run. Don't try to reel in now. When he slows down, begin to reel in. He'll probably make one or two more runs, maybe more. Don't forget that you are fighting a strong fish on a fairly light line. So just let him run when he wants to. Also, don't be afraid to walk with him. You're better off following him around the boat than tangling lines. Once at boatside, don't attempt to lift the fish. Wait for a mate to gaff him. After the fish has been landed, check your line of nicks and frays. If the line is frayed, cut off the frayed part and retie the hook.

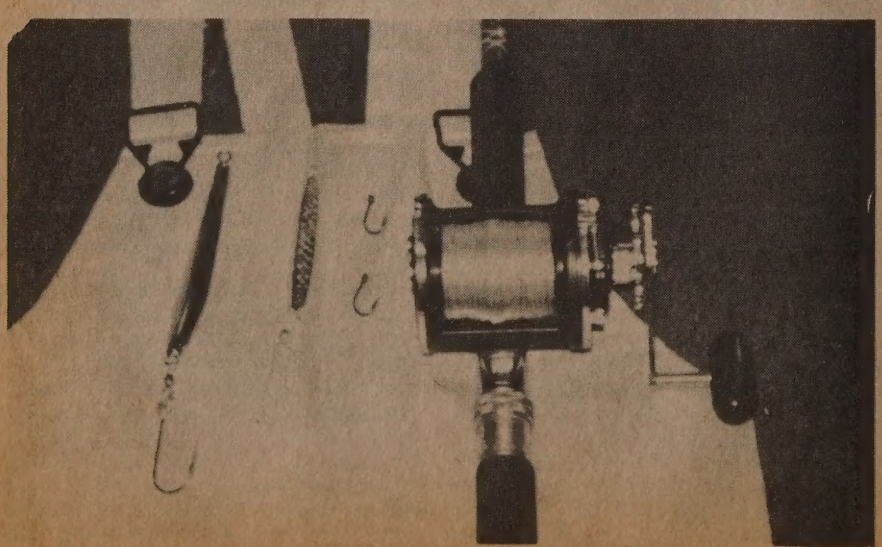
bait. I prefer to start with a diamond jig, then if I see a bonita or albacore hooked, I switch to a fresh spearing. One last tip for party boat fans: Arrive at the boat early and try to secure a spot in the bow or the stern. I prefer the latter.

Now for some tips on private boat fishing. One important factor is to bring along plenty of chum and keep a steady slick going. You can buy ground bunker or snag, grind and freeze your own. Milk containers are perfect for this. One good trick for private boatmen is to troll until you locate the fish. Then stop, get a chum slick going to keep the fish there and begin to bait fish. Best lures to troll include small feathers and cedar jigs. This isn't always necessary but sometimes it's very helpful.

Another advantage of private boat fishing is that you don't have to compete with 40 other anglers. If you decide to fish from a private boat, you may want to bring along a light spinning rod with 8 or 10 lb. test. You can have a lot of fun battling these little powerhouses on light tackle. Don't try this on a party boat. You'll only succeed in tangling lines and making enemies.

Although I prefer private boat fishing, there are some advantages to party boat fishing. For one thing, you can leave boat cleaning, fish finding and chumming to the captain and crew. Another advantage is that the size of party boats provides more comfort in addition to safety on days when the ocean kicks up.

No matter how, or where, you decide to do your fishing, don't miss the chance to tangle with these little speed demons.



A few of the tools needed to score with these fall speedsters.

FRED'S FISH FACTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

FISH TALK BY MANIPULATING MUSCLES AROUND THE BLADDER AND SCIENTISTS WITH SOPHISTICATED SOUND-SENSING EQUIPMENT HAVE DISCOVERED THAT ALL FISH TALK! *ESPECIALLY AT BREEDING TIME.*

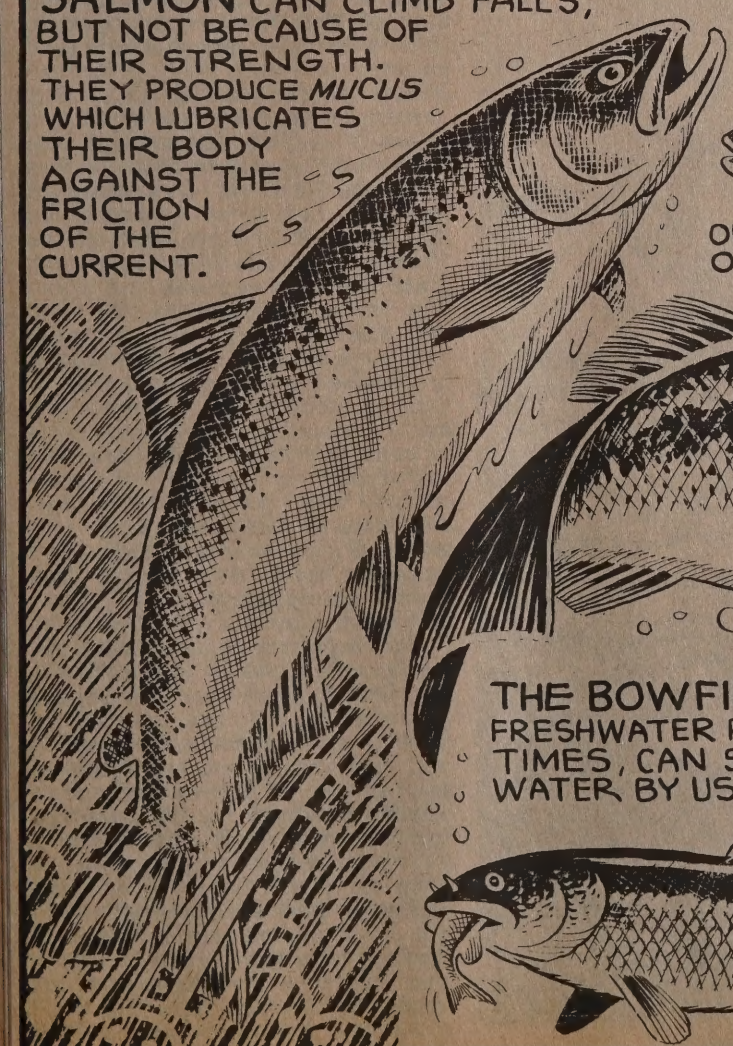
KING MACKEREL, ALSO KNOWN AS *KINGFISH,* HAVE BEEN FOUND TO TRAVEL FAR AND FAST, UP TO 14 MILES PER DAY! ACCORDING TO TAGGED KINGS RELEASED OFF FT. PIERCE AND BOYNTON BEACH IN FLORIDA AND RECOVERED DAYS LATER IN TEXAS.

THE CREEK CHUB MINNOW IS ONE OF THE MOST TALKATIVE OF FISH.

SHINERS, COMMONLY USED AS BAIT, COMMUNICATE WITH SHRILL SHRIEKS.

750 ALEWIVES LET GO INTO A 69-ACRE MAINE RESERVOIR QUICKLY CLEANED IT UP OF ZOOPLANKTON BLOOMS WHICH COVERED THE LAKE LIKE A BLANKET!

SALMON CAN CLIMB FALLS, BUT NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR STRENGTH. THEY PRODUCE *MUCUS* WHICH LUBRICATES THEIR BODY AGAINST THE FRICTION OF THE CURRENT.



MALE FRESHWATER BASS AVERAGE 4 LBS. AND THERE IS NO RECORD OF A MALE BLACK BASS WEIGHING OVER 6 LBS! ALL THE BIGGER BASS LUNKERS ARE LADIES!

THE BOWFIN, A POWERFUL U.S. SAVAGE FRESHWATER PREDATOR FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES, CAN SURVIVE A FULL DAY OUT OF WATER BY USING ITS AIR BLADDER AS A LUNG.

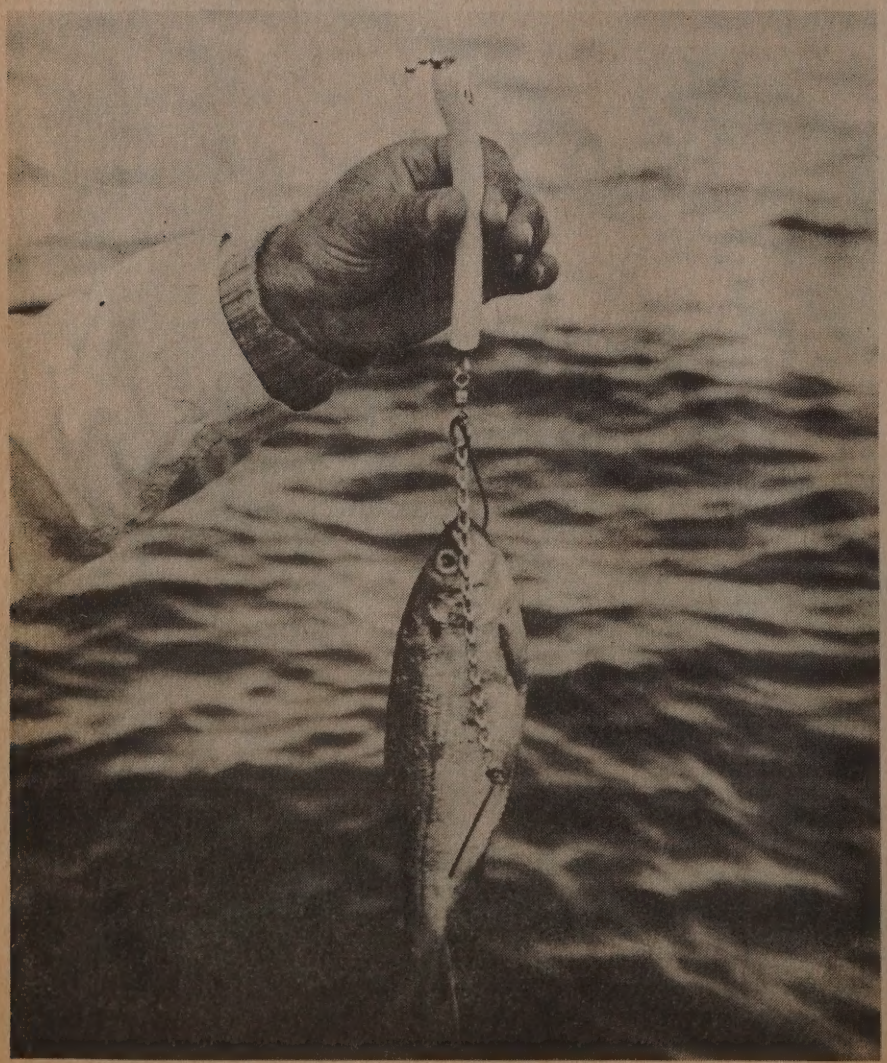
UNDER THE SUN AT CARTWRIGHT

by Al Ristori

Some of the best bluefishing "under the sun" takes place a short distance south of Montauk during September and October.

There may be better places to catch big bluefish on a consistent basis, but I've never encountered any spot that could hold a candle to the Cartwright Grounds. This area is located about six to eight miles south of Montauk Point in depths of about 75' to 110', and features a rough bottom loaded with bergalls, conger eels, and (in better times) sea bass. This seems to be just what big bluefish want for a bit of variety after a summer of gorging on sand eels, and when they arrive the most incredible bluefishing becomes an almost daily event.

Though some blues are found on Cartwright earlier, it's usually mid-August before they become "solid" enough to pass up other East End hotspots and concentrate on this fishery. It often does require some dedication during August, as one tide may produce very few fish—though the next may be "gangbusters." However, by early September, the blues are usually so thick on these grounds that it's only a matter of whether a tide will produce merely "good" fishing or a slaughter. Once the fish establish themselves, this hot fishing usually carries through September and much of October.



Close-up of a typical Cartwright rig.

Labor Day weekend last year was typical. An offshore storm had created a huge swell which kept most boats in port, though the few charters which did venture out to Cartwright reported excellent fishing. I was keeping my fingers crossed that the seas would calm down as I had a foreign guest to entertain. That spring I had been hosted by Reg Turner at his elegant Solataire Lodge on Lake Tarawera in New Zealand. Reg had guided me to a couple of large rainbow trout and we'd had a very nice time. Now he was passing through New York and I wanted to show him what American fishing is all about.

Reg flew into Montauk Airport that Sunday morning with his friend and fellow pilot (Reg was an RAF ace before retiring in New Zealand) Tom Rolfe, of Old Lyme, Connecticut. It was 7:30 before my nephew Todd Correll, of Belle Terre, cast off the lines on my Mako 21 at Star Island Yacht Club and we headed out to join the big fleet. Fortunately, the wind had died out and we were left with only large swells. It wasn't until I got to the fleet that I remembered my drail rigs for this fishing were in the car! All I could do was rig up a couple of rods with diamond jigs and drift while putting together whatever scraps I could find to make up rigs. Fortunately, there was wire, plus some drails, diamond jigs, and open-eye hooks. It would just take time to get rigged up.

Not being familiar with jigging, my friends kept hanging up in bottom; so I decided to anchor in an open hole in the fleet and get down to serious business. As it turned out, making four rigs took a good half-hour as Reg and Tom were getting hits almost as soon as they got bottom. There were lots of lost baits at first, but when they got the hang of it, blues started flying.

Though our terminal rigs were a little out of the ordinary, we were fishing in standard Cartwright fashion. I had taken along a flat of herring, plus some tinker mackerel and snapper blues caught from the docks the previous day. The usual Cartwright drail rig employs a chain with two hooks: one at the drail to

hold the head of the bait and the other at the end of the chain to be placed near the tail. A party boat variation involves the use of a clip at the drail to hold the head, which leaves only one hook and avoids some de-hooking accidents. I was using wire instead of chain, or simply rigging three open-eye hooks over each other. We had to watch for kinking in the wire and hook eyes backing over the barbs, but we still caught more than our share.

Reg is used to gentlemanly trout fishing in which there is considerable time between bites. At Cartwright he couldn't avoid the 10 lb. average blues and was sore-armed within a couple of hours. It was just a matter of dropping the bait to bottom and reeling up a couple of turns. It usually didn't take long before a blue was on the bait. By afternoon the blues were moving up, and Tom was hooking up immediately by dropping only half-way to bottom. That illustrates the importance of keeping baits at different levels when the action slows. You can also usually tell just where the fish are by running your graph recorder at slow speed all day.

The bait used didn't seem to make any difference. Those beautiful tinker mackerel were gobbled up immediately, but so were the snappers and the frozen herring. Live baits from the bottom are even better. Reg was reeling in a conger eel, that took his bait left too near bottom during a lull in the action, when a bluefish latched on. The blue let go near the surface, but Reg dropped the head back and hooked up immediately. Later, Tom did the same thing with a bergall. Keep this in mind if you're ever running out of bait on Cartwright. Drop a bottom rig with small pieces of bait down and you'll usually be able to catch all the bluefish bait you need—if you can get it up before the choppers nail it!

I'd like to enhance my reputation by saying that we did exceptionally well that day. However, the fact of the matter is that all of the dozens of boats fishing over that broad area were catching equally well. I dropped my anchor completely at random in 100'. Though it's often possible to record concentrations of blues out there, it doesn't seem to be terribly important. The fish are moving and spread themselves around the fleet. Thus, you may be enviously watching another boat with every rod bent while you can't get a hit—and minutes later the situation will be reversed.

To be sure, it isn't always a day-long slaughter on Cartwright. More normally, it will be a decent pick at times, plus flurries of very fast action as schools move through. Whole baits seem to be most attractive when the fishing is spotty, but when it's hot and heavy you can go down to half pieces. Indeed, on Labor Day last year Joe Alexander put us all to shame by using bunker chunks on a single hook rig. That same day Dr.

(Continued on next page.)

The open boat Hel-Cat at work on the Cartwright Grounds.

Blues like this are standard fare at Cartwright during the fall.

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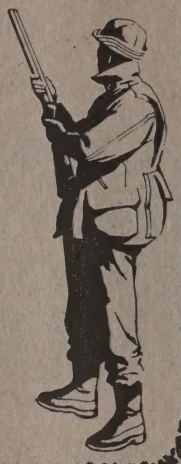

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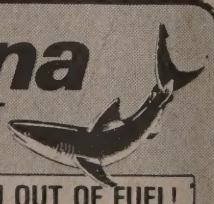

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Garry Sherman was able to diamond jig several blues and both Garry and Phil DeGiacomo had a ball catching big blues on baitcasting tackle. Though you do need a bit of weight to get down, light tackle is perfectly feasible on Cartwright as the fish have nothing to foul you up in. Just wait them out and you can boat them on almost any sort of gear.

Cartwright is an "ancient" Montauk fishing area which produces cod throughout the winter, and was noted for its summer sea bass fishing. I'm not sure exactly when vast schools of bluefish were discovered there, but I believe it was around 1970—and I'm quite sure that the pioneer was the late Capt. Dick Vigilant. Vigilant's large charter boat "Triton" used to load up there with the biggest kind of blues, including many 20 lbers., and other boats soon followed. About a decade ago I remember fishing with Arthur Klorfein on his "Salty" at Cartwright using ling and whiting (tuna chunking material) for bait—and sinking the baits to intermediate levels only with split-shot. During the 70s I frequently stopped at Cartwright on the way back from sharking to catch a few blues, and it was never necessary to anchor. Actually, it still isn't. However, you will find it easier and more productive to fish at anchor.

Unlike the last few years most of the fishing was done on Inner Cartwright. Boats competed for position on the various high pieces, and catches were very good. However, the big fleet now fishes on relatively flat bottom at around 100' a couple of miles further offshore on Outer Cartwright. Boats return to the same Loran C numbers day after day and do a big job, but the entire area seems to be productive—as is the Inner Cartwright area we used to fish. Unless you're the first one out in the morning, you'll have no trouble finding the area. Just head south and look for the fleet.

A word to the wise. Though open boats make great buoys, it isn't a smart move to crowd in on them. Not only isn't it ethical, but it's usually unproductive. The great volume of baits that a party boat has in the water keeps the blues in that area right around the boat. You'll do much better by anchoring a good distance away and waiting for your own fish.

If it's big blues you want, and plenty of them, then Cartwright's the place and now is the time. These choppers rarely run less than 8 lbs., and you'll probably have some that hit 15 lbs. Even 20 lbers. aren't uncommon at Cartwright. Herring are readily available at Montauk marinas for bait, as are butterfish. However, just about any large fish bait will work equally as well. Diamond jigs will often produce all the blues you can handle, but there are days when it's difficult to jig them—so don't go out without at least some bait. Of course, you can make everything very simple by chartering at Montauk for the greatest bluefishing in the country!

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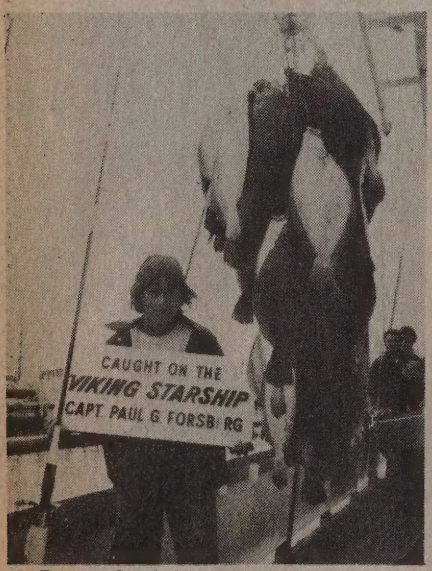
East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Just about everything is biting like crazy on Long Island's easternmost tip as evidenced by the report from Capt. Bud Dorman's 6-man limit open boat **Waxed** which has switched porgy operations Friday from Gardiner's Island to the Point with rewarding results for his customers. Porgies—jumbo porgies—2½ to 3 lbers were the rule rather than the exception, particularly Friday and Saturday. Captain Bud witnessed 21 slammer porgies per filled bucket. Sea bass in the 1½-2 lb. range were in exceeding numbers. Flounders (up to 3 lbs) are increasing in numbers daily as the water chills.

Captain Richie Rade's **Marlin Fleet** has been having very good bluefishing both day and night with fares averaging 15-20 fish per person, fish up to 20 lbs. Porgy action has improved a lot, to the tune of 30-50 fish a man up to 3 lbs. Please note that all tickets have been sold for both boats for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19.



Peter Savini stands alongside part of an A.M. fluke catch made by patrons aboard the Montauk open boat "Viking Starship."

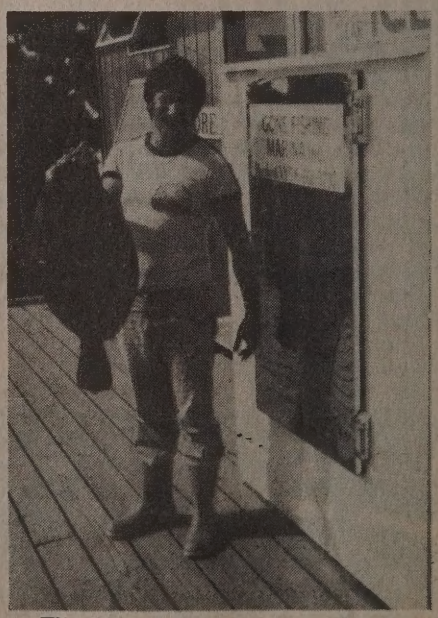
Tom Violagis, of the Wine Gallery in East Meadow, stands alongside the 425 lb. giant tuna he whipped aboard the Montauk charter boat "Adios."

Captain Paul Forsberg's **Viking Fleet** had another very productive Nantucket wreck trip recently. One happy and richer passenger was Phil Albo of West Hempstead who walked away with $1,002 for his 56 lb. cod. On Saturday's Coxes Ledge run, Mineola angler Gary Guerrino, hoisted a 60 lb. pool fish. Paul says the Coxes Ledge codfishing has been ranging from fair to good. Porgy catches have been absolutely super right through the weekend aboard the **Starship** which ran to New london on the weekend to avoid the horrendous private boat traffic. Catches there were excellent, 70-80 medium and jumbo porgies a man. Fluking remains very good in North Rips and Shagwong. There is still tremendous bluefishing at night at Cartwright with fish all gorillas and every pool fish in the 20s. Porgies have been very good locally all week too. Paul is has been putting out all three boats to fish night bluefish on the weekend so that no one gets left at the dock.

Little Bear and **Flying Cloud** happily report very good to excellent local porgy fishing. Friday's high hook aboard **Little Bear** was 103 porgies. Fish are running medium to large and while the weekend catch was off just a little due to the heavy boat traffic, numbers of fish have increased dramatically and Dusty says come on down if you want to load up.

Fishing aboard the **Blue Fin IV**, says Capt. Mike Potz on Monday the Feldman group chummed 5 bluefin tuna between 120 and 210 lbs. Tuesday was very rough with one out of six tuna hooked being boated, that one going 175 lbs. The boat struck out on giants Wednesday and Thursday but fishing a different area Friday for the Thayler group, NYC a 193 and a 172 lb. bluefin tuna were taken off Block. Saturday saw roughly 60 blues on each of the two trips that day on trolled umbrellas at the Sub Buoy and Southwest Ledge. Sunday's party had 2 tuna hitting 125 and 150 lbs. on butterfish and chum. Previous to this week by just a couple of days the Knable group from Syracuse had a 531 lb. giant while the next day a 415 lb. giant tuna rang the bell for the Holman group. Captain John Potz aboard the **Blue Fin I** fishing the Ryan group on Tues. scored with 5 bluefin tuna from 110-200 lbs. On Saturday John released an estimated 550 lb. giant, dropped another giant and landed a 175 lb. mini giant. This party also lots of bluefish on the other days of the week.

Capt. Jack of the charter boat **Windy** called to report that the bluefishing at Cartwright has been absolutely exellent. Saturday's party boated 90 fish from 8-18 lbs. On another trip 250 lbs. of big porgies were hoisted.



The largest fluke taken on Long Island this season, a hefty 19 lber., is displayed by LIF subscriber Arnie Fox at Gone Fishing Marina in Montauk. The huge doormat was taken on the Point's south side on September 5.

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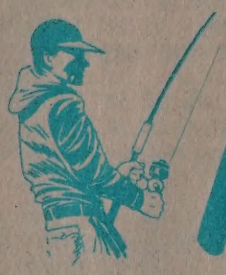

The FISHERMAN

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARD PROGRAM

Anyone is eligible to enter **The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program.** Anglers meeting the required minimum weights for the species listed below will receive a certificate and patch. Fish must be weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

SPORT FISHING AWARD COMPETITION

Only subscribers are eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award Competition.** Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only bass, weaks and blues are eligible. Subscribers landing the largest of a species in each category will receive a plaque in recognition of their catch.

RELEASE AWARD

Fisherman subscribers who release any fish meeting the minimum required weights for the Skillful Angling Award Program will receive a certificate, suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale although estimated weights are acceptable for the **Release Award.** One certificate per species, per angler please.

INSHORE BOTTOM FISH

Species	Min. Wt.
Flounder	2
Blackfish	5
Codfish	30
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Species	Min. Wt.
Striped Bass	30
Bluefish	15
Weakfish	10
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Species	Min. Wt.
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Species	Min. Wt.
Brown Trout	3
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Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

You must be a paid subscriber to **The Fisherman** at the time fish is caught to be eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award and Release Award Programs.** Contest runs from May 1 through December 15. Entries received after December 31st will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of **The Fisherman** reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

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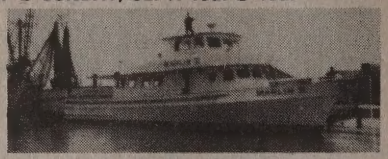

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Paul Caparelli, with an assist from Ernie Labassi and Louie Cima, bested this 535 lb. bluefin tuna six miles southeast of Montauk. The giant was taken on a 50 lb. class outfit in 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Aboard Capt. Ron Grandinetti's charter boat **Julie III** Bronx angler known only as Nono and group hauled up over 500 big porgies, 13 flounder and 24 sea bass, all at Great Eastern. Thursday's trip for Artie Wherman caught 875 lbs. of blues at Cartwright. Friday's charter for Tom Kelly had 900 lbs. of blues up to 17 lbs. fishing Cartwright on diamonds. Saturday's trip for Lewis Velasquez, Queens, managed 467 porgies to 3¼ lbs. fishing Great Eastern, while Sunday's trip for B.W. Morton, Mt. Vernon had over 400 big porgies at Great Eastern.

capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** fished Leon Jones of Sparkill, NY and had a solid catch of blues and one bass Wednesday on umbrellas at the Point. For the McGloin group one day at the canyon saw some big-eye tuna, long fin albacore and a 125 lb. mako caught. The tunas gobbled JetHeads. Inshore is still good and the tuna were happily feeding again Sat. and Sun.

Capt. Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** had 2 makos on one of his trips this week and also found himself surrounded by lots of big blue shark all around the boat. Joe advises that loads of big blues are smashing herring baits at Cartwright. Blues are also being wire lined at Southwest Ledge. Smaller blues in the 4-5 lb. range are being taken at the Point. The boat has a few weekday and weekend charters still available for stripers.

Charlie at **Star Island Yacht Club**

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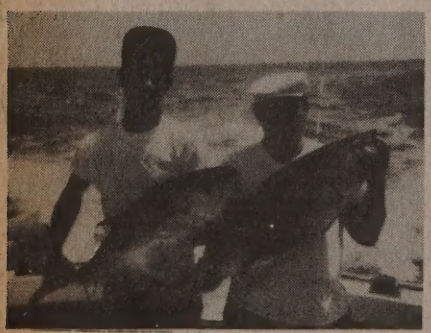
Put the SPORT Back in Fishing

Jeff Scherer and son Val with fluke and blues caught on a recent trip aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

reports a very big weekend at the Canyon with over 30 big eye tuna brought into his dock. Cutlet had 7 big eyes from 140-260 lbs. Swamp Fox had 3 big eyes from 160-220 lbs. Thunder had 3 big eyes from 180-260, Jen-S, 2 big eyes, at 150 and 280 lbs.



Mike and Hector show a yellowfin tuna and true albacore taken aboard the Montauk charter boat "Windy." They were part of a big catch made 30 miles south of the Point late in August.

Queen Bess also had 2 big eyes, 197 and 234 lbs. All the boats that ran to the canyon had tuna or marlin. Just a super weekend. Lots of large fluke still being caught on the south side and at north rips. Excellent bluefishing at Cartwright. Tuna Teaser had a 225 and 283 lb. mako. Lou Rosado of Daiwa scored with 3 makos from 80-230 lbs.

Captain Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** on Tuesday had 2 small bluefin tuna at 130 and 171 lbs. Bluefishing has been excellent all week. Saturday the Paradise Fishing Club booked the boat for fluke and had the best catch of the year aboard the boat for fluke with fish all keepers in the 4-6 lb. range. Saturday night East End Fishing Club loaded the boat with Montauk blues from 4-20 lbs. They repeated it on Sunday. Best fishing has been at Cartwright for blues, day and night.

Gone Fishins Marina told about the doormat fluke continuing on the south side. John Barch caught a 15¾ lber. Sunday while Jim Brocard boated a 13 lber. and 11 others in the 6 lb. range.

Mike Contessa weighed in his 14 lb. fluke. A lot of 6-7 lbers. were caught during this past week and weekend. Aboard Capt. Bill Ricca's charter boat **Alyssa Ann**, the Milollo group on Saturday jigged up 23 blues to 15 lbs. on a half day trip. Sunday's charter for Leon Blieger and pals using Tri-Fin teardrop diamond jigs at Block Island decked over 900 lbs. of blues. Flounder at Washington Shoals and inside near the Point up to 2½ lbs. Porgy action good at Great Eastern and Outer Shagwong.

Capt. John Keller's **Bronco Explorer**, the canyon specialist boat hit the canyons for an overnighter this week for Jack Murphy and crew of Rockville Centre and loaded up on a 98 lb. night caught swordfish, 6 big eye tunas, hooked but just one boated, a 200 lber., 3 yellowfin tuna to 75 lbs. 15 albies to 60 lbs. Al lthe big eyes were caught at night. John says its red hot out there.

Chester Wolfe of the Deep Sea Club aboard his boat Sea Wolfe caught a 323 lb. big eye at Block 'Island on 80 lb. class tackle over the weekend.

A call from Ron Onorato informed us that he and pal George Oliver fished Block Island Wednesday and scored with a 464 lb. giant tuna. On Saturday they took a 102 and 192 lb. bluefin tuna in the same area.

SOUTH FORK

In **Sag Harbor** the open boat **Wilhelric II** has stopped fiuking for the year. Tuesday will become part of the porgy program and Wednesday will be devoted to strictly blackfishing. It's porgies now everyday except Wednesday. Capt. Artie has been getting excellent blackfish reports from the Greenport charter boats, on fish 2-8 lbs. at Plum and Little Gull Islands. Porgy catches at New London seem to be improving. Thursday's porgying at Plum saw Roy Hue, Bronx hoist 85 porgies to 3 lbs. Friday in the same spot was just a pick. Saturday

was the slowest day of the week but Sunday things bounced back at the north west corner of Plum with all passengers having at least one bucket of fish. The porgies are moving around and consistency is found wanting. Worm and clam bait are doing the trick.

Over in **Noyac** Barbara at **Noyac Marina** told us about Heln and Arvo Lainen of Noyac and Eileen Schroder who fished between the monasatery and short beach and in just 3/4 hour boated 22 humpback porgies. Some blowfish are being caught in the area as are some small flounder. The station is closed on Wednesdays.

To the west in **Shinnecock** the **Capt. Clark II** sailing from Shinnecock Canal had fantastic porgy fishing in Peconic Bay on Sunday's trip. Over 700 porgies for 18 fares. Marty Simon of Eastern Anglers Fishing Club was high hook with 104 porgies and took the pool with a 4 lb. black. Green crabs are now available on the boat. Last Saturday's offshore wreck trip was only fair with some sea bass, blacks and ling caught. The next offshore wreck trip is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 18.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

The south shore picture continues to change as flounder fishing is beginning to dominate the inshore scene in a number of areas. Fluke are still available in fair numbers but reports of erratic action indicate that the gradual movement of summer flatties to offshore waters has begun. Blackfishing continues to improve and a mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, blowfish and snappers is almost a sure bet in Great South Bay and South Oyster Bay.

Lots of small blues outside the Inlets keeping boatmen busy until the expected fall run of slammers develops with a few albacore and bonito mixed in to spice up the action. Canyon fishing was good thru Satur-

This 158 lb. mako was taken at Montauk aboard the charter boat "Diane I" by John Lyman from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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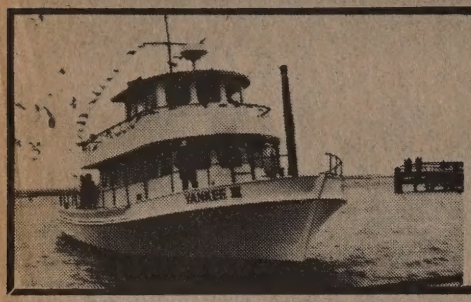

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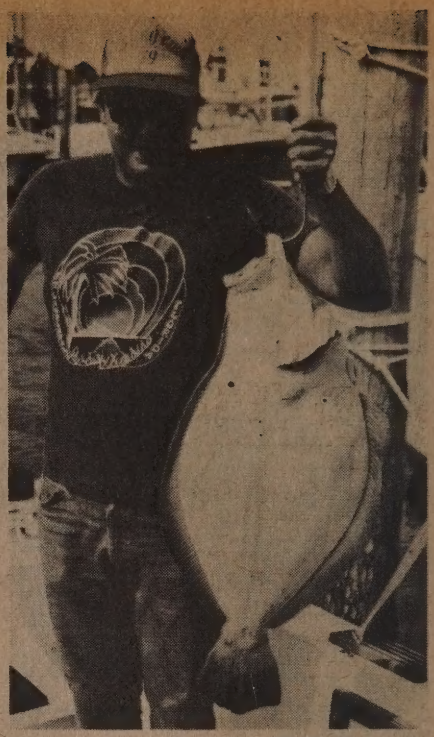

Ron Volz drilled this 15 lb. fluke out of Montauk's Midway Rips on a sand eel and squid combo. The big flattie was taken on the Big B and weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

day but died on Sunday. Snappers and crabs now at their peak in most bay areas.

EAST END BAYS & INLETS

Good flounder fishing highlights the Shinnecock Bay fishing according to Frank Pelosa of **Corr's Mariner's Cove** in **Hampton Bays**. Mike Murray and Ted Lesniak teamed to take 35 flounder in the 1-1½ pound range from East Channel on Sunday. On Saturday, Fred Wittenberg of Flushing accounted for 25 flatties in West Channel. Both worms and clams and plenty of chum have been taken the flatties. The private boat Lucky You returned to the marina with a 150 pound mako on Sunday in 180' of water.

A very good supply of flounder now in the mouth of Hart's Cove on outgoing water and east of buoy 42 on the flood according to Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**. Bloodworms along with mussel or clam chum produce some excellent catches of winter flounder this past weekend. Fish averaged from ¾-1¼ pounds but go to 2 pounds. Jim emphasized the need for heavy chumming if you are looking to do a good job on the fish. Among the better scores were 116 flounder for Joe and Jim Sander on Saturday while on Sunday, Jim Gleason Sr. and Jr. teamed to take 97 flounder. Still fluke to be had in the East Cut and also between buoys 39 & 41 on the south

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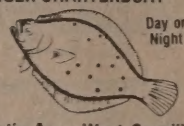

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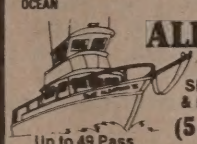

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side of the Channel.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** echoed Jim DeVita's report of very good flounder fishing in Hart's Cove and also spoke highly of the action at Haven's Point. Catches ranging from 30-80 fish per boat durin the week leads Gary to believe that the fall run is now underway. Best scores are being made on bloodworms with heavy clam or mussel chum. On the weekend, best fishing was during the last half of the flood and the first half of outgoing. Luke and Lenny Stockwell along with Narine Ramlogan worked Hart's Cove on Sunday to the tune of 81 flounder betweeen 1 and 2 pounds. Very good crabbing and lots of big snappers in the Cove and some spotty fluke action down at the inlet with the best results being near the top of the tide.

Outside of Moriches Inlet, Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** spoke of very good bluefishing late in the week and over the weekend. 4-6 pound blues predominate near the Sea Buoy while 8-10 pound fish are located in 110' of water south of the inlet. Small blues thick at the Inlet proper. Capt. Fred has been doing all of his bluefishing with wire line and umbrella rigs. The skipper noted that there are still a few blue sharks and brown sharks being taken.

Adding to the excellent crabbing being found in the **Mastic Beach** area is a good run of flounder which has developed between buoys 9 and 17. This according to Gary Stiriz of **Stiriz's Fishing Station**. Traps and rings continue to take lots of nice blue claws in the same area as the flounder fishing. In addition, a nice mixed bag of blackfish, sea bass, porgies and blowfish seem to be spread out throughout the area. Gary even saw some 2-3 pound weaks taken at buoy 5 over the weekend and also knew of a good number of school bass taken at the bridge on Saturday night.

This 9.3 lb. doormat fluke was decked by Al Wagner of Garden City during a recent trip aboard the Sag Harbor open boat "Wilhelric II."

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Bait and Tackle** in **Patchogue** said that the east bay still supplied with small weaks although the number seem to be diminishing. Mixed with the weaks are kingfish, porgies and blowfish at Ocean Beach and also off of Brown's River in Sayville. A few 8-9 pound weaks taken on live snappers in recent days at Ocean Beach and the Lighthouse. A good run of flounder has developed in the Sore Thumb pocket. Use clams or worms. Snap-

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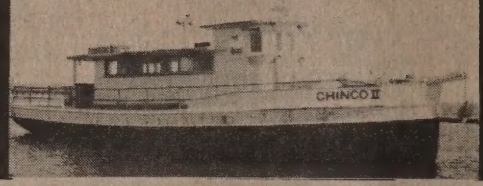

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pers have slowed at local docks but there are plenty available to boatmen.

Still some weaks in the 1-3 pound class off of Heckscher and Sayville with some kingfish and blowfish mixed in according to Rod DiGiacomo of **J & R Sport Center** in **Oakdale**.

A 235 lb. mako, taken aboard the High C's by Mike Tenhoeve goes up on the scale at Corr's Mariner's Cove in Hampton Bays.

Squid strips or worms working best on these fish. Same type action at Ocean Beach but add sea bass and porgies to the menu. Flounder are in good supply between Oak Beach and the Sore Thumb and fluke are hanging in at the inlet. Fiddler crabs and green crabs accounting for some decent scores of blackfish at the Kismet Reef with some sea bass and porgies mixed in here also.

Irene over at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** over in **East Islip** spoke of very good blackfishing over at Kismet Reef but added that space on the reef is at a premium on the weekends. She also reminded that they have a good supply of fiddlers and green crabs on hand for blackfish fans. Good flounder action in the Sore Thumb pocket and some nice weaks on live snapper s at the WR buoy and the Lighthouse.

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore** thought that the early run of blackfish on the Kismet reef warranted some merit. On Saturday, Eril Ralston of Bay Shore stopped by the shop with 10 blacks up to 6 pounds taken on the Reef with fiddler crabs. Lots of 2-3 pound weakfish showed up off of Bay Shore this week where they were taken on pieces of cut snapper and bunker. Dennis Miccio stopped by the shop with a 19 pound bass, a 4½ pound Spanish mackerel and a 10 pound weak all taken on the same red jelly worm near the Sore Thumb. Carl thought that the fluking in the inlet area has been holding up pretty well. On Saturday, The Polish Prince had 12 keepers drifting between buoys 6 and 7 in the inlet. Carl knew of fluke taken in the State Channel and at West Island as well which means we

Fishing out of Skidmore's Fishing Station in E. Moriches, Dave Roys and Wayne Rheaume show 27 fluke up to 4¾ lbs. taken near the Elbow.

Marty Baker and Phil Sztore with 22 fluke caught at Haven's Pt. in Moriches Bay. The pair fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in E. Moriches.

should have the summer flatties around for a little while longer. A mixture of false albacore, bonito and big blues in the 10-15 pound class occupied both chummers and trollers in 110' of water SW of the inlet this past week. For big game anglers, the Canyon was alive on Friday aqnd Saturday but dropped dead on Sunday.

Over at **Captree** bluefishing has shown definite signs of improvement. According to Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen**, catches on Friday and Saturday night averaged 20 fish per man. Most were in the 1-3 pound class but there were some 6-8 pounders mixed in. Fishing was done SW of the inlet in the vicinity of the Three Sisters Wreck. Of the fluking, Gordon called it fair with action varying from day to day. Good numbers of fish are still in evidence at West Island and the Bridge which leads him to believe that the flatties should be around for another couple of weeks or so. Afternoon flounder trips have been very good with fishing being done in the Sore Thumb pocket. Action did slow over the weekend but catches still range between 6 and 12 fish a man. Worms and clams (both of which are included in the fare) have been taking the fish. The Queen's varied sailing schedule currently includes a 7AM fluke trip, a 2PM flounder trip and night blues on the weekends. See ad for more details. Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** was enthused at the improved bluefish action despite the smaller size of the fish. He remains optimistic that the fall run of big blues will get underway before too long. Fares had a sample of some good sized fish on a couple of trips this past week. Fishing is being done at Three Sisters, to the east off of Patchogue and occasionally along the Jersey Shore. On the average fish have been running from 2 to 6 pounds.

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Capt. Tom Burke of the Captree charter boat **Lady Ann** ran one of his unique wreck trips on Tuesday for a party headed by Tony Mannino. The group loaded the box with nearly 300 cod up to 35 pounds and were blessed with very little interference from pesty bergals. Capt. Tom has a reservation only trip scheduled for 3AM on October 3rd, so why not give him a call at 586-2515 and get in on some of this great fishing. The skipper was equally enthused about the flounder action in the Sore Thumb pocket over the weekend. On Saturday, the Bedsole Club headed by Josh Gamberdella loaded up on flatties. 30 anglers accounted for over 500 flounder with the pool winner falling just a shade shy of the 3 pound mark. Of the bluefishing, the skipper called it fair with good numbers of 2-3 pound blues located near the Three Sisters Wreck.

From **Augies Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon**, Ralph filled us in on the current offshore picture. Good fishing at the canyon was the rule through Saturday while on Sunday boatmen had a tough time on the distant offshore grounds. Among those scoring over the weekend were the Obsession with a 200 pound swordfish and the Bluewater with several big eyes in the 200 pound-plus class. Further inshore false albacore were trolled in 80' of water, 150 degrees out of F.I. Inlet. The Whistle Buoy has loads of small blues in the 1-2 pound class while liveliners continue to pick away at some giant blues inside the bay. Fluke fishing holding up pretty well at the inlet and very good blackfishing at the Rota Wreck. Also good blackfish action on the Kismet Reef with fiddlers and green crabs and lots of flounder in the Sore Thumb Pocket on clams and worms.

Among the **Babylon Captain's Association** boats that fished in recent days were the **Pooka V** which fished a party from Hardy's Pub on Saturday. They managed a good catch of fluke in the vicinity of the Coast Guard Station with George Hardy taking the 4 pound pool fish. The **Luci II** topped off

Greg Urnalek and Bob Keye with 24 fluke taken on killies at buoy 29 in Moriches Bay. Fishing was done out of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station in East Moriches.

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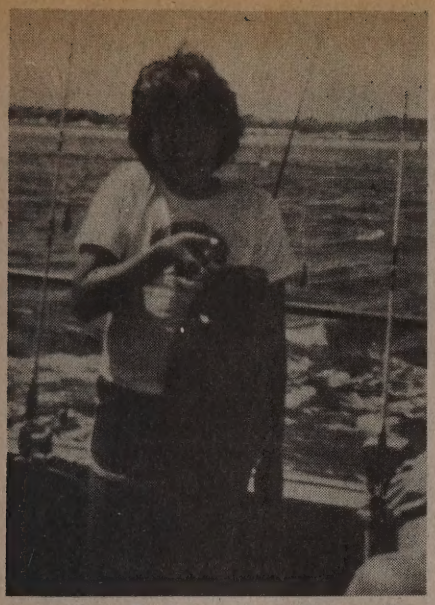

Jeffrey Robinson took the pool on a recent trip aboard the Captree charter boat, "Yankee III," with this 5 lb. fluke.

a decent catch of fluke in the State Channel late Thursday with a 4½ pound fluke for L.I.F. subscriber Bob Goelz. On Saturday, split the day trolling 2-3 pound blues in the inlet and sinker bouncing at the Lighthouse for a mixed bag which consisted primarily of porgies and sea bass. A weekend canyon trip for Capt. Ralph Green on the Mrs. G resulted in 6 tuna being taken including a big eye of 200 pounds. On Saturday, Capt. Frank Zory of the **Tilichi** put 5 men over the kismet reef where they took a huge mixed bag of sea bass, porgies, blackfish and blowfish.

Gil at **Capt. Jack's East** in **Lindenhurst** spoke of good snapper fishing and crabbing at the Lindenhurst Town Dock. A good mixed bahg of porgies, blackfish, sea bass and blowfish at the Kismet Reef and also at the Copiague Hole. At the latter spot, hard-core surfmen Steve Petri Sr. and Jr. of Lindenhurst turned to their tin boat to stock their freezer with over 70 porgies, blowfish, sea bass and kingfish. The pair rounded off the day aboard their See-Ya with a dozen blue claws and a bunch of big snappers. For those looking for big weaks, Gil suggested livelining snappers at the Lighthouse or at the pocket at the Sore Thumb.

Good flounder fishing in the Oak Beach Cove and lots of porgies at west island and the lighthouse on sandworms and clams according to Mike of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. A mixture of blowfish and sea bass at Kismet, West Island and the Lighthouse and good blackfishing on the Kismet reef and at the Sore Thumb. For weaks best bet is live snappers at the lighthouse and the WR buoy. Lots of good size snappers and crabs continue to please shore bound anglers at the Lindenhurst Town Dock. On Saturday, Stumpy Alonzo trolled umbrella rigs between 90 and 110 feet of water south of the inlet and took 9 big blues to 15 pounds and a pair of bonito.

Plenty of crabs and snappers at Tanner Park was the word from Jack Stoddard of **Capt. Jack's West** in **Amity Harbor**. He also noted an increase in the number of flounder in the bay and also noted at the same time that the best action for the flatties is currently at the Sore Thumb. Blackfish are in good supply on the Kismet Reef and at the R.M. Bridge and fluke fishing remains fair from the bridge to the inlet although it appears that the summer flounder are slowly fading.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY

Capt. Brian of the **Seaford** open boat **Chinco II** spoke of very good fishing throughout the week with the bulk of the catch being made up of flounder and some porgies. The picture changed over the weekend however with less flounder but a good mixed bag of porgies, sea bass and blackfish. The skipper has been fishing the third Wantagh Bridge, Sloop Channel and Goose Creek with both clams and worms producing good action.

From **Pop's Fishing Station** in **Seaford**, John Dombrowski said that

Louis Bernardo with one of 20 big blues he caught in 75' of water southwest of Fire Island Inlet aboard the Lindenhurst charter boat, "Fishfinder."

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Mickey and Linda Stolze teamed up to put away this 300+ lb. mako aboard the family boat, Linda I. Fishing was done southeast of Fire Island Inlet in 150' of water. Subscriber photo.

customers have been enjoying good mixed bags on both sides of the 2nd and 3rd bridges and Mass. Cove. On Saturday, Mike and Charlie Bianco returned to the station with 3 weaks, a four pound fluke and a mess of porgies, sea bass, flounder and blowfish. They fished just east of the cove. On Sunday members of the Shelton Fishing Club loaded their buckets with porgies, blacks, snappers and flounder. Frankie Machia took the pool with a 2½ pound blackfish. The group fished the West side of the cove. Mello Porcelli and Richie Johnson both of the Bronx had a bushel of crabs on Saturday and repeated their performance on Sunday. The blue claws were scooped on the flats south of Amityville.

Good flounder fishing at the 3rd bridge, Zach's Bay and the M.B. Bridge according to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**. Also good blackfish action at the bridges for those using fiddler crabs. The bridges and Massapequa Cove also surrendering a fine mixed bag of sea bass, porgies, flounder, snappers, blackfish, blowfish and crabs. A good number of fluke still being taken at the second bridge and Four Corners and a few weaks on live snappers including a 14 pounder taken at the third bridge. A few stripers being taken by clam chummers and snappers thick in Zach's Bay but also good at local docks.

According to Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** plenty of nice flounder being taken between the Jones Beach Piers and the M.B. Bridge on clams, worms and mussel or clam chum. Chumming is the key to a good flattie score reminded Scott! For those looking for variety, a good mixed bag of all bottom species is available near the bridges and at Massapequa Cove.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Starting with the boats out of **Freeport**, the **Capt. Lou Fleet** has been having very good flounder catches all week. On the full day boat high hooks have been in the 50s. Thursday saw Herb Schwarz of Long Beach with 57 flatties. Dr. Victor Levinson of Long Beach had 52 fish. The weekend slowed due to heavy boat traffic but fares picked away and high hooks were still up there in the 30s. On the half day boat Jeff and Jennifer Levinson had 54 flounder between them. Also on Friday morning Elmont angler Joe Andre put away 56 fish while Marty Voelp of Oceanside chuckled with 41 fish. Porgies and sea bass and a few blowfish are also mixed into the catches and 5-10 fluke are still being caught on every trip.

Mixed bags are being brought into our station said Tony of **Anthony's Fishing Station.** Flounder, blackfish, sea bass and crabs are filling out people's bags. Some of the flounder are quite large. His rentals are working Short Beach, High flats drain, Merrick Bay and Swift Creek. Dan P. hoisted a 5 lb. black plus an additional catch of porgies, sea bass and flounder at the Meadowbrook bridge on worm and clam. Tony says it looks like a good fall mixed bag, now and better to come.

Howie Moskowitz, Joe Belcastro and Steve Astor with 16-17 lb. blues taken on a recent trip aboard the Freeport charter boat "Blue Fin IV."

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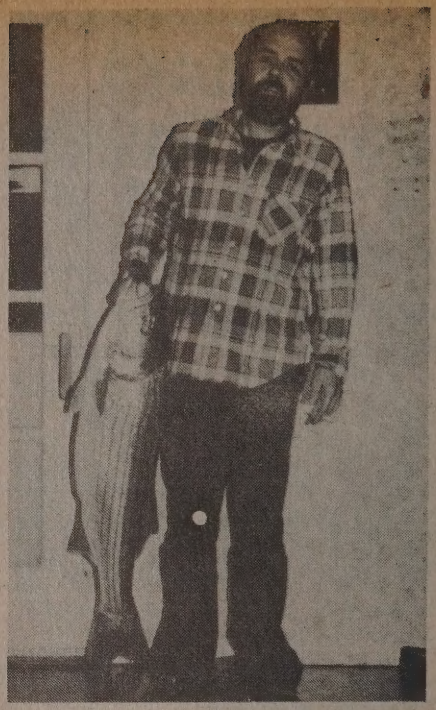

Working from the bank behind Jones Beach produced this 28 lb. striper for Don Powers of Hicksville. The bass took a Gibbs swimming plug back in June. Subscriber photo.

Bob at **Freeport Boatmen's Association** informed us the bluefishing picked up over the weekend though it was no slaughter. Lots of smaller fish at the Hump, southwest of Jones Inlet. Bigger fish at 17 Fathoms. **North Star** had very good blues on diamonds fishing SW of the inlet for the East Norwich Firemen's Benevolent Association. Bill Dunn was high hook and 13 fares had roughly 150 fish. All the bluefish boats did well on the weekend. The **Super Spray II** has been having very good night bluefishing at Three Sisters and Cholera. Bluefish boats are chumming in the days more now. The boats bottom fishing are getting mixed bags of fluke, flounder, sea bass and porgies.

Fishing aboard the **Capt. Andy** on Saturday, the Kevin O'Shaugnessy had a high hook of 38 flounder, six of which were in the 2-3 lb. range, fishing Long Creek.

The **Capt. Al** had a very good catch Sunday of 10 albies, 70 bonito and 500 small blues. Saturday night saw a fabulous catch of all blues at the Three Sisters.

Capt. Richie Kessinger's **Star Stream II** finds the bluefishing has been rather inconsistent all this past week. However, on some of the trips his passengers are loading up on 1-3 lb. blues. Friday's high hook had 83 blues.

Capt. Sy Karlin's **Blue Fin Fleet** is reported to have had very good bluefishing all during the past week, action good both day and night. Fish are going 1-5 lbs. with a few specimens up to 16 lbs. An exceptionally big catch was made Saturday night. High hook of the week with 26

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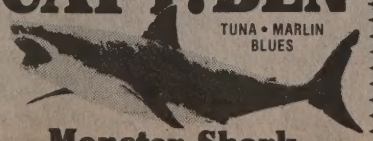

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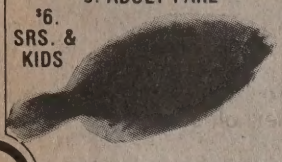

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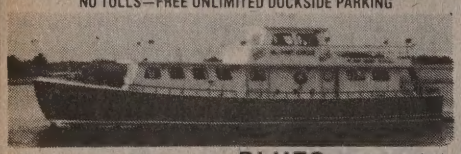

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This is Ginger and Shawn Reibe with a nice catch of fluke made in Reynold's Channel after their family rented a skiff from Ed's Fishing Station in Pt. Lookout.

fish was Louis Antonini of Ossining, NY. A charter for Katz Communications had blues up to 16 lbs. in local waters. Mainly fish are being jigged daytime with bait and chum being employed at night. Quantities of bluefish have definitely increased this past week.

Aboard the **Aloma II** Saturday good mixed bag catches made locally of flounder, sea bass, porgies and an occasional fluke. Things slowed down on Sunday. The boat has stopped its night bluefishing for the year.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** reports the quantities of big eye tuna taken from Hudson canyon have been very gratifying while good catches of flounder have been made in Swift Creek, the eastern entrance to the Coast Guard station, the phone stand at the bridge, best catches being made around all slack water for flounder. Blackfish at the Meadowbrook are a good item as are bonito just east of Cholera mixed in wth the blues.

Capt. Pat of the charter boat **Lady J III** mentioned a big upswing in the bluefishing this week with good catches made SW of the inlet on diamonds. The fish still want bait nighttimes with different sizes being caught in different areas. Pat has found more consistency in the fishing now.

Over in **Baldwin** Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** said catches brought into the station have been fairly good this week. Good flounder catches have been made at Garretts Lead and middle bay up to 1½ lbs. 42 flatties were taken by two youngsters at the juncture of Bedell Creek and Middle Bay. Night jacking for blue claw crabs has been very productive in middle bay. Small blues are being trolled in 40' to 50' of water off the beach and there is a good scattering of sea bass and porgies just about everywhere in the bay.

Down in **Point Lookout,** Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** says the weekend's fluking was slim but there were lots of porgies, sea bass and blackfish to be caught in their place. All the bridges have been holding good concentrations of blackfish. Allan and Ernie Becofsky fishing Saturday and Sunday totalled 50 porgies, 30 sea bass and several flounder up to 1¾ lbs. Swift Creek and buoy 15 in Reynolds Channel were best. Some legal fluke mixed in with sea bass on Sunday. The weekend saw lots of boats out and a lot of fish caught.

The half day flounder boat **Capt. Bill** has been working locally getting mixed catches of flounder, sea bass and porgies with a few blowfish mixed in.

Capt. Walt of the **Miss Point Lookout** reports flounder catches all week have been fair to good with sea bass and porgies filling out the catches. Flood has been best in Long and Fundy Creeks and the fish larger. Smaller fish are being taken in Swift Creek and Short Beach on the ebb with fish a little smaller. A few fluke

ing, there's plenty of action. Catches of night blues have been good at the Sisters on Saturday night for fish 2-4 lbs. Cooler weather will in all likelihood bring better flounder action into play. Please note that all tickets are sold for Sunday, Sept. 19, both trips.

A good fishy weekend was reported by **Scotty's Fishing Station** with good catches of mixed flounder, porgies and sea bass taken at Short Beach and buoy 17 in Reynolds. Blackfish at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. An occasional striper or weakfish off the Point Lookout jetties on Kastmasters, Hopkins or Ava jigs.

To the west in **Long Beach**, **Long Beach Sports Marina** passed the word along that Dan Silver and Harry Rosen of Bklyn. boated 62 fluke to 5½ lbs. off Sandy Hook on squid-spearing combos Saturday in the station's 23 ft. rental Proline. This area has been very productive. Flounder in Reynolds Channel at the Yacht Club and behind Duck Point, mixed sizes. Bloodworms are the bait and heavy chumming is a must. Some weaks and blues, both to 10 lbs. under the bunker schools AMs and PMs. Schoolie bass being taken on white bucktails at the AB bridge.

From **Beckman's Tackle** in **Island Park**, we hear that Greg Nisito of Shakespeare had some nice blackfish Saturday on just one hour of the flood tide at the T wreck on Greg's all time favorite blackfish bait, two week old green crabs. Greg also advised that there are loads of green bonito from Jones Inlet to Cholera and also lots of bait around. Charlie further told us about Frank Ramos' 9¾ lb. fluke taken on the Maureen V. This fish was caught Sunday afternoon by the Hewlett angler at Ambrose Channel between buoys 4 and 4A. Frank also had 22 other fluke from keepers up to 4 lbs. all on squid-smelt combos. Riis and Ambrose have been phenomenal for fluke all this past week and weekend. Flounder have been good at Short Beach, Swift Creek and east of the Meadowbrook. Charlie says the trick for flounder right now is to anchor over a depression and chum and sit and fish and wait. The Jones Beach piers on the weekend saw good catches of flounder and fluke. Blackfishing was strong at all bridges and jetties, especially at the Jones and East Rockaway Inlet stones.

Sixteen-year-old Robert Cavallino hefts stripers of 37 and 41 lbs. taken at Breezy Point back in July. Subscriber photo by Harry Ostrow.

Down at **Atlantic Beach** Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** tells of this week's Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club's fluke tournament, first place going to Milt Miller on Sun Chaser Too, 5 lbs. 7 oz. Second place went to Fred Kazdin on Cowboy, 3 lbs. 9 oz. Third place went to Warren Sicherman, Cowboy, 3 lbs. 2 oz. Also Four Queens hit the canyon on the weekend with crew of Fred, Vic, Sid, Tony, Chris and Bob hoisting 3 big eye tuna weighing 146, 162 and 206 lbs. plus 12 longfin albacore up to 62 lbs. 8 oz. Good blackfishing at the AB bridge and Silver Point Jetty. Sandy Hook has been producing the best fluke this week on live killies. Umbrellas trolled off the beach have been producing small blues and bonito while weakfish remain being caught at the Tin Can Grounds in the evening and at night on Nordic eels.

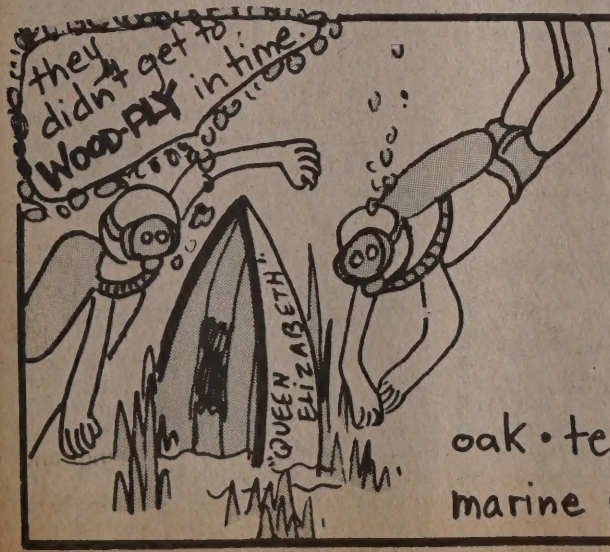
NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Bait and Tackle in **East Rockaway** tells of decent blackfishing at all the bridges and jetties on fiddler crabs. Flounder are good around the trestles in Reynolds channel while very good catches of fluke are being made at the Tin Can and Ambrose on squid-spearing combos.

Further west in **Jamaica Bay** John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** tells of excellent fishing in the bay with loads of decent size porgies all over the place and some big weaks. George Barr had 8 blues up to 16 lbs. and a weak of 15½ lbs. during the day Saturday fishing from a boat close to the South Channel bridge. George is from Broad Channel. The catch was made on a live bunker. VEry good fluking from the boats in the local waters with decent size flounder starting in the Silver Hole area. Snappers and bccs fair. Lots of fish around said John.

In **Sheepshead Bay,** Capt. Butch of the **Zephyr** said the weekend fluking matched the weather...just super excellent. Butch estimates that Thurs, Fri. and Saturday's total catch was roughly 2500 keeper fluke running from 1½ to 7 lbs. Most of the fish were in the 2-4 lb. range. Butch knew that one lady had 30 fish. High hook Saturday was 67 fluke. The skipper feels this is the beginning of the fish moving out, that the area is alive with fluke at Ambrose, Tin Can, Gedney and New Channels and the sides of he channels.

Joe Lauria, Jr. of **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** passed the word about lots of porgies and snappers in the bay while bluefishing seems to have slowed on the weekend. Stripers and weaks at the Breezy Point jetty and



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Tin Can in the evening and at night on Nordic eels. A few tuna in the 50-100 lb. range have been diamond jigged at the HA from the bluefish party boats. These are bluefin and yellowfins and bluefish customers are casting diamonds to these breaking fish. Blackfish have improved greatly at all bridges and rocks. Good fluking at Ambrose, Sea Gate and Romer Shoals channel.

Over in **Staten Island** Kevin at **Santos Sport Shop** still talks of plenty of porgies, snappers, blowfish and lafayettes all over the place. Blues hitting bunker and porgies and weaks hitting porgies and worms are quite an item at Great Kills in the late night. Crabs have increased in activity and catches in the Great Kills area and the Stapleton piers. Some fluke and sea bass also being caught in most of the waters surrounding the island, by boatmen.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

Bluefish and porgies remain the staple items for fishermen from Orient Point all the way to City Island. Shoreline fishing is generally spotty but boats with lots of mobility are producing very well. Blackfish now enter the picture, especially out east, while bass are absent from nearly every report. Warm waters, the result of a week of above average temperatures, make this week's report similar to typical late August reports, except for the absence of fluke.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun & Tackle in New Rochelle reported big blues on a steady basis, especially in early morning hours off Buoy 11B and Cos Cob. Chunking was the ticket. The **Klondike VIII,** sailing from New Rochelle, had terrific weekday results with anywhere from 10-45 blues per fare. Blues were typically 5-8 lbs. with some occasional 10-12 lb. slammers mixed in. General area includes the Middle Grounds and the zone from Eatons to the Stratford Light.

The huge blues in the 20 lb. class seem to be gone from the City Island area now, according to **Jack's Bait & Tackle,** but fish to 17 lbs. have been taken in back of Hart's Island by patient anglers chunking and livelining in the mornings and evenings. Porgies have become spotty, but there are plenty of large snappers around and medium sized blackfish were also showing. The **Ebb Tide** was producing 5-7 lb. blues with consistency

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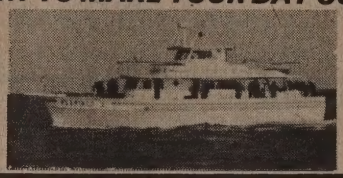

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while the **North Star** was pounding the porgies off Connecticut in 60' depths.

Dom Cerbone told us that the **Apache** from City Island was averaging 12 porgies per man, and that the scup were still 1-1½ pound fish with occasional 3 lb. jumbos. The boat also hauls about 12 blackfish per day on open bottom and will shift over to blacks in a couple of weeks. Cerbone will continue to sail every day, and although crowds are light on weekdays, the boat is carrying around 55 on weekends.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that blues were again in the news this week. Chunkers and snapper liveliners like Everett Johnson and Art Miller weighed in slammers to 16 lbs. off Motts Point. Blackfish are already off Crescent Beach and the Week's Point jetty, while flounder are also active. Snapper fishing is excellent.

Joe Fink called to say that the **Lady Lil** was working schools of blues from Eaton's to Crane's and in Smithtown Bay with typical fish in the 1-4 lb. range, including lots of 2 lb. blues and a few slammers to 12 lbs. During the week, catches ran as high as 50 per fare, but Sunday's results were picky, with most anglers totaling 5-10 fish off the boat. Frank Ackley's **Tarpon** has been doing very well on charters, working the same body of fish. The Lady Lil is now sailing daytimes only, no nights.

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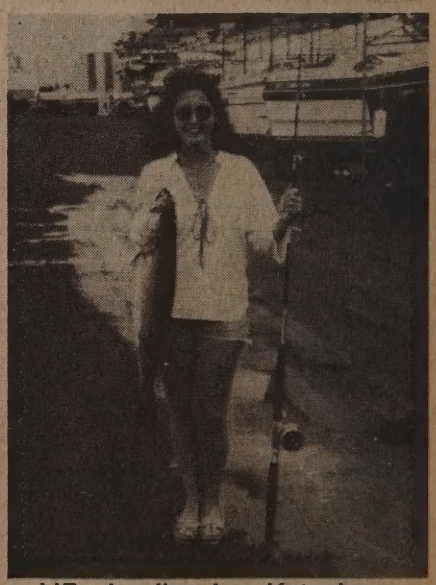

LIF subscriber Jane Katz shows the 15 lb. bluefish she took on an Ava 27 jig near buoy 11 in Long Island Sound. The big tiderunner was taken in mid-July aboard the family boat Lady Jane II.

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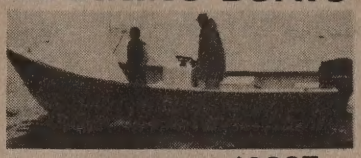

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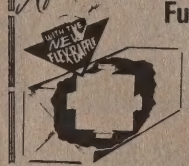

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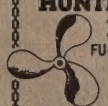

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The joy of snapper fishing is captured here in the faces of Kerry and Karen Stuven. The baby blues were caught at Mill Dam in Centerport Harbor. Subscriber photo.

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Triangle would be the hottest spot in the area, but pickings there are only moderate. Some of this may be due to local dragging activity which has been stimulated by the recent high price of blues on the market—55¢ per pound.

Blues in the triangle average 6 lbs., but some fish to 16 have been reported by **Huntington Prop.** A 14 lb. slammer was taken on a bunker off Lloyd's Harbor and weighed at **Ronnie's.** George Valentine at the **4 Winds** bets on the night fishing in 10' of water off Marshall Field and the early morning pursuit of bunker schools in Huntington Bay, Lloyd's and Cold Spring Harbors. Billy Schneider trolled a 19 lb. gorilla on a bucktail at Eatons and Joe Armellino accounted for an 11 lb. weak on a diamond jig off Buoy 11B.

The porgies off the beaches near the Northport Stacks are small but plentiful, but larger scup provide action in smaller numbers anywhere from Eatons and Lloyds to Marshall Field and the Obstruction Buoy. Most of the blackfish off Eatons and Marshall Field are 2-3 lbs.

Packy Collins has been showing good crowds some solid fishing on the **Ever Ready.** Saturday and Sunday high hooks ranged from 12 to 17. Most bluefish are 6-8 lbs. with pool winners to 12. Packy cautions that the boat is sold out for Sunday, the 19th, but that he'll be taking the crowds on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport heard of some bass in the teens taken by the night shift, and feels that the diehards who go out all night are doing reasonably well. There are, says Bowman, plenty of 3 lb. blues to be taken off Fort Salonga on umbrella rigs.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in Port Jefferson saw a lot of blues in the 2-3 lb. range off Buoy 11 with a smattering of larger fish off Oldfield and the Bell Buoy. Porgies and blacks are mixed at Oldfield with

crabs working already on the larger tautog to 8 lbs. Those who chunk the beaches in the area are picking up 10-16 lb. slammer blues in the pre-dawn hours.

John Fisher called to say that the **Aqua Gem** had a prosperous and busy weekend on both blues and porgies. The Newark Men's Club took a bottom charter on Friday and pulled 250 porgies to 2½ lbs. On Saturday morning, Fisher worked the porgies and then found blues 3½ miles north of the inlet, pulling 60 fish from a school of 4-8 lb. fish. Sunday's blues were numerous, but mostly cocktails. Willie Washington had 65 jumbo porgies in Saturday's catch.

Dick Brown at **Dick's** in Mount Sinai looked at lots of shoreline blues taken on tin, bunker chunks, and eels. Some of these fish were large, running 6-10 lbs. Blackfish at the Shoreham pipeline and Miller Place are numerous but small, with a few larger fish mixing in. The peak of this fishing is still weeks away.

NORTH FORK

The Sound fishing was still dominated by porgies, according to reports from **Warren's** in Aquebogue and from the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station.** The scup at the Beachcomber are now mixing with tautog to 7 lbs. Fluke at the Inlet are just about gone, and those showing to the east around the Port of Egypt Station in Orient are only borderline keepers.

However, Jim Dunkirk tells us that the blackfish at the Lighthouse are getting larger, and John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** and Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** have been pounding the tautog off Gull Island with green crabs. Jensen had 160 blackfish off Gull in three hours last week. He tells us that the blues in the Race are 4-5 lbs. with some larger fish to 12 mixed in, and that the New London porgies are the biggest around. Both the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** have been getting in on that action with scup averaging 3 lbs. However, the numbers there are not quite as good as some anglers had hoped.

The flounder action on both sides of Orient Point was generally good last week. John Rainis said that 1¼ lbs. was the norm, but that all the fish were thick. Rainis chartered with the Jackson Heights Anglers and the Valley Stream Fishermen last weekend, and accounted for blackfish all the way to 11 lbs. Most of the tautog were 3-4 lbs.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport liked the local snapper fishing this year, and feels that the fluking has just about petered out. He suggests that a few large weakfish are still left in the Hay Beach Channel.

Summer weakfishing action was excellent in Rose's Grove according to reports from **Captain Marty's**, with buckets and coolers full of porgies and weaks coming into the station. Most summer fish run over 1 lb., but a couple of tiderunners of 6 and 8 lbs. were brought in last week. Buoy 4 and the South Race were also very good for porgies. Small bluefish are still available in good numbers for those working tubes off the bottom in the mornings at Jessups.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

Despite the switch back to mid-summerlike weather, the L.I. surf scene to show signs of life even if it is confined to small blues in some area. Without further adieu, lets see what this weeks phoning revealed.

The beaches between New Dorp and Annandale have been the center of bluefish and weakfish action this past week according to Kevin Koncelik of **Santo's Sport Shop** in **Staten Island.** Fishing is being done in the early AM and evening hours for weaks 8-10 pounds and blues from 9 pounds on up into the teens. Some of the action is on tins but bunker chunks and live porgies are accounting for the best action as are sandworms for the weaks. The best weakfishing is very likely that being found from the bar at the mouth of Great Kills Harbor late at night. Of the local bait supply, Kevin reminded that lots of bunker are still settled in around the island.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** told of looking over a catch of a half dozen big blues one day last week. The largest chopper checked out at 15 pounds. The only information that the two surfmen who made catch would reveal was that the fish weret aken on tins from a south shore beach.

A good showing of school bass and at least one 20 pound fish occurred in the Jones Beach Surf Saturday morning according to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** who looked over some of the fish taken from the flurry of activity. Both tins and plugs took fish. Lon also knew that a few blues in the 5-8 pound class were taken on tins and plugs were taken inside the inlet this past week. One west end fish which escaped our attention last week but is worthy of mention was Jim Gregor's 31 pound striper taken from the west end surf on a live eel. Jim weighed the cow at **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Rockaway.**

Democrat Point surf was pretty quiet this week with the exception of s a few small blues and no word on any blue, bass or weakfish activity from the other side of the inlet at the Sore Thumb or Cedar Beach.

The **Moriches** surf from Smith Point Park to within a mile of the inlet jetty surrendered lots of 1-3 pound blues in recent days. The hot number according to Paul Graniello of J & J Bait and Tackle in **Patchogue** is an Ava 007 jig and dropper combination. An occasional weak is picked in the early AM on tin. Paul advised staying away from the west side of the inlet due to dirty water created by the dredge working at the inlet. Good water begins about a mile west of the jetty. Lots and lots of sand eels are spread along the beach.

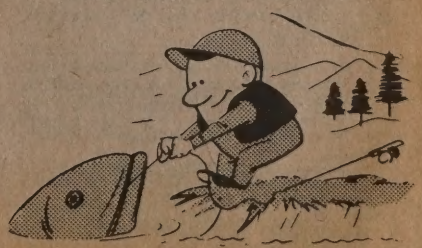
From his **Southampton** tackle shop, Thom of **Speck's B & T** knew that some blues to 4 pounds were taken at the inlet on tins and diamond jigs. During the week there were some bigger blues spread along the sand beach down toward Sagaponack. No word on any bass activity in the area this week.

Lots of small bluefish remain camped at **Montauk** according to Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk**. The two pound choppers are all around the point and have dominated the scene for the past two weeks. The wet suit crew worked the south side rocks on a couple of nights this week and managed a couple of weaks and school bass along with a few big blues. A few guys fished the flood under the light over the weekend but did nothing.

North Shore beaches continue to show life in the bluefish department although last weeks flurry of school bass action appears to have mellowed. Glen Cove and Bayville beaches produced good numbers of 3-5 pound blues on plugs and tins for those with access. To the east, big blues continue to be taken on bait at night from Port Jeff to Mount Sinai. Smaller blues available evenings and early AM on tins and plugs.

Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in **Huntington** knew that some big blues are being taken at Lloyds Point on bait after dark as well as on swimming and popping plugs. One customer was in replenishing his plug supply over the weekend.

Two to six pound blues roaming up and down local beaches according to Stan at Rocky Point Fishing Stop. Both tins and plugs are taking fish with some bigger fish being taken after dark on bait. Stan noted that there was very little bass action along these beaches this week after a flurry of fish last week.



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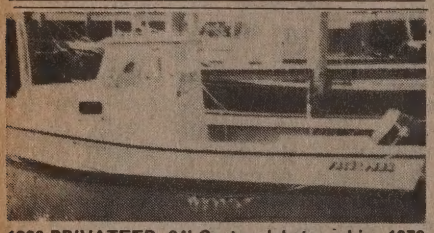

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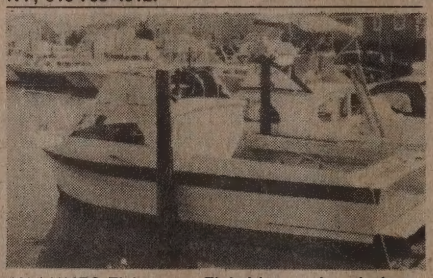

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1972 19' SPORTCRAFT Caprice, FG. Big twin berth cuddy & large uncluttered cockpit. Good cond. '72 65 h.p. Evinrude w/new S/S water pump. Excl. cond. Really nice rig; very economical. W/Compass, CB. $3800. 516-868-2391 or 516-223-6135.

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Offshore Fishing Boat, 1980 Grover 6 cyl Diesel. New electronics, VHF, gin pole. Low $20s. Can be seen in Montauk at Offshore Marina. 516-668-9809.

1978 AQUASPORT 22.2 ccp, center console, deep V, 82 Merc. 200 HP, 90 hrs. Full T&T, live bait-well, Bennett trim tabs. Full instrumentation, dual batts., auto. bilge, Inmar 24 ch. radio, new 240' flasher, 10 rod holders. Insulated fish box, 3 storage compartments. Bimini top; full canvas; built-in compass, full seat & front cushions. In water; will demo. Boat & motor in immac. cond. Leaving state. 212-934-4520.

FISHERMAN'S DREAM

Aquasport, 1972, 22.2 center console, 1979 150 h.p. Merc w/power trim, 1982 power head, '82 E-Z Load trailer, power winch, new spray hood. All elec., bilge, Si-Tex recorder, Ritchie compass; bait aerator. Full CG pkg. Lots of extras. Full pkg. in excl. cond. Only $9900. Days: 516-466-0335. Eves/Wknds. 516-938-3127.

1980 GLASTRON 26'. Immaculate. Launched Aug. 1981. Merc 260 I/O; trim tabs. Shore power, ship-to-shore. Full galley, refrig., dinette; H/C water; live fishwell. Camper top, rod holders, elec. bilge pumps. Head w/sink. Swim platform & ladder. Rear lounge seat; custom winter cover; 100 gal. gas, 28 gal. water. Remote spotlight, compass, w/extras. Sleeps 4. Low hrs. In water; ready to go. Mon-Fri 9-5: 516-589-4000. $22,500.

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17' 1978 BROWNING Mustang 90 h.p. Merc. Fully equip. Must sell; excl. cond. Must see. 516-541-1719.

FOR SALE

1970 Hurricane I/O 23' center console. Blue water fishing machine by Enterprise Yachts. All new running gear, S/S prop. New canvas; CG equip.; CB. In water w/dockage pd. Ready to go; will demo. Asking. $5200. Days: 212-945-0350. Eves: 516-887-2004.

21' 2" Fiberform Walkaround fishing machine, 170 HP Merc., FWC, 108 Ch. VHF & 500 sounder & graph. Sleeps 3. Saturn compass, Lee outriggers, speedometer, 10 rod holders, legal head, swim platform, 2 batt., stand-up Navy top & side curtains. Windshield wiper. Always in HY & Dry. Trailer avail. 516-477-1633.

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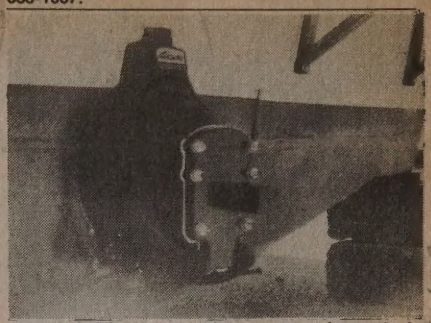
50% Off List price on all winter covers in stock. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY; 212-885-1667.



COMPLETE your winterizing process by protecting exposed parts after removing your Mercruiser O/D for winter storage. This unique protective cover & gasket will seal out all dirt, grit, & rain. To order, send check or M.O. for $19.95 to: ROSATO MARINE, 37 Beach Ave., Copiague, NY 11726. N.Y. residents add 7¼% sales tax.

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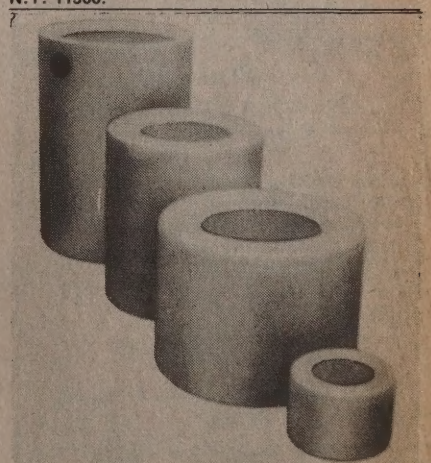

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Continued On Next Page

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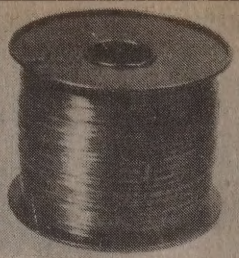

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Fantastic Florida Keys fishing. Duck Key Condo. Sleeps 4; fully furnished. Reasonable. 516-589-7005.

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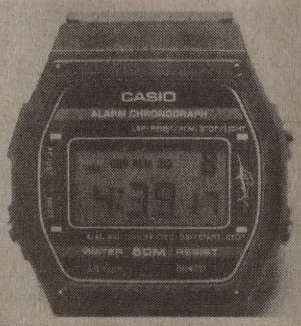
FISH WITH ME in Freeport. The "Jolly Fisherman," 27' Sportfisherman. Ask about guarantee. Capt. Fred, Eves. 212-525-4490.



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1955 WILLY'S 4WD S.W. Needs motor rebuilt or swap. With/Without 7' belt pump Meyers Plow. Best offer. 914-969-1852. Eves.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	7:40	7:55	8:25	8:45	8:15	8:35	9:05	9:25	11:35	11:55	11:00	11:20	7:20	7:45	9/16
FRI.	8:25	8:40	9:10	9:30	9:05	9:20	9:50	10:15	–	12:20	11:45	–	8:10	8:35	9/17
SAT.	9:10	9:25	9:55	10:15	9:50	10:05	10:35	11:00	12:45	1:00	12:10	12:30	8:55	9:15	9/18
SUN.	9:50	10:05	10:40	11:00	10:30	10:50	11:20	11:45	1:25	1:45	12:55	1:15	9:40	10:05	9/19
MON.	10:35	10:50	11:25	11:45	11:20	11:40	–	12:05	2:05	2:20	1:40	2:00	10:25	10:45	9/20
TUE.	11:20	11:30	–	12:05	–	12:05	12:35	12:50	2:50	3:00	2:25	2:45	11:10	11:30	9/21
WED.	–	12:00	12:30	12:50	12:25	12:50	1:20	1:40	3:35	3:40	3:15	3:30	11:55	–	9/22
THUR.	12:15	12:50	1:15	1:40	1:15	1:35	2:15	2:35	4:20	4:20	4:00	4:20	12:20	12:45	9/23

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

9/17	6:42	7:07
9/18	6:43	7:05
9/19	6:44	7:03
9/20	6:45	7:01
9/21	6:46	6:59
9/22	6:47	6:58
9/23	6:48	6:56

Moonrise/Moonset

9/17	6:31AM	7:34PM
9/18	7:39AM	8:02PM
9/19	8:46AM	8:30PM
9/20	9:51AM	8:59PM
9/21	10:54AM	9:29PM
9/22	11:55AM	10:03PM
9/23	12:55PM	10:40PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/17	9/25	9/3	9/10

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	4:40	10:45	4:55	11:10
Fri.	5:25	11:30	5:40	11:55
Sat.	6:10	—	6:35	12:25
Sun.	7:00	12:45	7:30	1:15
Mon.	7:50	1:40	8:20	2:05
Tues.	8:40	2:30	9:10	2:55
Wed.	9:30	3:20	10:00	3:45
Thurs.	10:20	4:10	10:50	4:35

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You had him. But your line couldn't hold him. And you lost your balance as well as your fish. Head for the tackle shop and pick up some Stren, the all-purpose line from Du Pont.

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